RHC laboratory obtains CMS certificate of compliance. PAGE 3
Tinian daughter is promoted to army warrant officer. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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CUC's Gary Camacho resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Camacho

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho resigned from his post yesterday, on the same day as news reports which stated that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is determined to replace Camacho.

See CUC on Page 4

Ukraine's year of pain, death—and also nation-building

A resident looks for belongings in an apartment building destroyed during fighting between Ukrainian and Russian forces in Borodyanka, Ukraine, Tuesday, April 5, 2022. AP

By JOHN LEICESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—In the final hours before the Russian onslaught, a last grasp at peace. Russian troops would soon pour across Ukraine's borders and Russian missiles would fill Ukrainian skies, taking Ukrainian lives in the biggest air, sea and ground assault in Europe since World War II. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy still appealed, on war's brink, for reason to prevail.

Staring intently into the camera in a last-ditch, dead-

See UKRAINE on Page 4

FAA concerned about continuity at CPA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Hinds

The Federal Aviation Administration has raised concerns over continuity at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, given the uncertain transition under the new administration, according to CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that she recently met with FAA representatives at a conference in

See FAA on Page 4

BOOST program begets treatment facility

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together, or BOOST, program seems to have benefitted the CNMI after all with a new treatment facility that caters to drug addiction and mental health issues now underway.

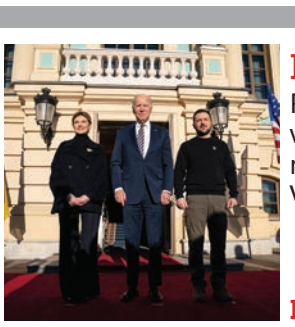
Second Wind, a non-profit organization that received $200,000 from the BOOST program back in October 2022, will soon launch its outpatient treatment facility that will cater to individuals suffering from drug addiction and

See BOOST on Page 4

OCEAN SWIM
Swimmers in the 1,500m, 1,000m, and 500m events wait for the start signal for last Saturday's Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet in the waters off the Civic Center Beach. The event was held as part of the corporation's yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary this year.
See story on Page 20
MARK RABAGO

INSIDE

BUSINESS
BAB Korean Restaurant is introducing 3-choice, 2-choice, and 1-choice meals.
PAGE 11



NATION
President Joe Biden visits Ukraine to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
A spectacular collection of centuries-old Cambodian jewelry has been returned to the country.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

NTSB says it will investigate plane's steep dive off Hawaii

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday it will investigate a December flight in which a United Airlines plane descended to within less than 800 feet (250 meters) of the ocean surface after taking off from Hawaii.

The NTSB said it expects to issue a preliminary report in two to three weeks.

The agency had told The Associated Press on Monday that it was asking United questions about the incident before deciding whether to launch a formal investigation.

The Boeing 777 dropped more than 1,400 feet (470 meters) before regaining altitude and completing the Dec. 18 flight from Kahului Airport on the island of Maui to San Francisco, according to data from tracking service Flightradar24. No injuries were reported.

A United Airlines jetliner taxis to a runway for take off from Denver International Airport, Dec. 27, 2022.

Chicago-based United said it is cooperating with authorities and the pilots are currently receiving additional training.

Feds probe United plane's December dip near ocean off Hawaii

Federal investigators are seeking more information about an incident in which a United Airlines plane dropped to within about 800 feet (250 meters) of the ocean surface after taking off from Hawaii.

United says the pilots are getting additional training.

The Boeing 777 dropped more than 1,400 feet (470 meters) before climbing again, according to data from tracking service Flightradar24. The plane then continued on to San Francisco. No injuries were reported.

A spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday that the investigative agency is still seeking information about the Dec. 18 incident, which only recently came to public attention after a report in The Air Current, an aviation-industry publication.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which oversees airlines, said the United crew reported the incident under a voluntary safety-reporting program. The FAA said it reviewed the incident "and took appropriate action" without providing further details.

United said it worked with the FAA and the pilots' union on an investigation that led to additional training for the two pilots, which is still going on. The airline did not explain why the pilots chose to continue the long, overwater flight to San Francisco instead of returning to Kahului Airport on the island of Maui. ***(AP)***

Palacios appoints Manglona to Board of Professional Licensing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed civil engineer Denn M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing to represent the First Senatorial District, or Rota.

Palacios

Manglona's appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent. If confirmed, he will serve a six-year term that will commence on the date of his confirmation and oath of office.

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last week that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that Manglona is qualified and will be an asset on this important board.

Manglona is one of the managing partners of Pacific Engineering Group and Services LLC. In 2019, he was registered as a professional civil engineer in the CNMI after passing the PE Civil Exam of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and the Seismic Principles Exam of the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists on his first attempt.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

He graduated from Rota High School in 2010. He is the son of Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Lydia Manglona.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and is certified by the Guam Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in construction quality management.

Recently, Palacios and Apatang appointed businessman Joseph Santos Rios Jr. as secretary for the Department of Commerce, and former representative Franklin R. Babauta as special assistant for the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Rios' wife is Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan). Franklin Babauta's wife is Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

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Name: John Christopher Cruz Fabros
P.O. Box 7974 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670 789-8930

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0464
JOHN CHRISTOPHER CRUZ FABROS	NOTICE OF HEARING
Petitioner	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on July 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Public warned of rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Friday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs of the Marianas.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along east facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

RHC laboratory obtains CMS certificate of compliance

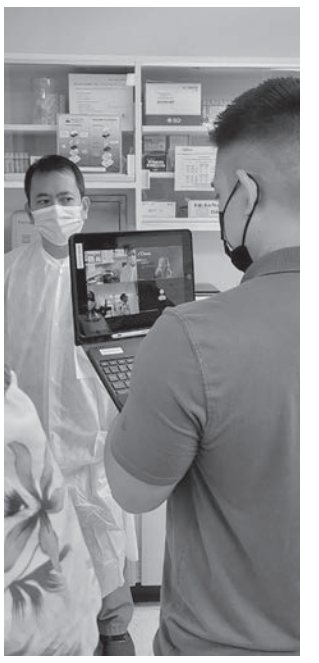
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued the Rota Health Center's laboratory CMS Certificate of Compliance, marking a significant accomplishment for RHC and assures the quality of testing in the center's laboratory.

The Rota Health Center had its first ever Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services inspection last Dec. 13 and 14, 2022, and the inspector found no deficiencies.

With the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s goal of expanding laboratory testing capabilities in coordination with the Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Program, RHC received additional laboratory testing instruments that prompted the need to shift from a CLIA-Waived Certificate to a Certificate of Compliance.

The RHC is now capable of performing additional onsite laboratory testing with immediate results, which benefits medical providers and patients seen at RHC's Outpatient Clinic and Emergency Room.

A CHCC news release yesterday quotes the RHC as thanking everyone who helped with this, including CEO Esther L. Muna, chief of Clinics Halina Palacios, RHC resident director Vanessa Quitugua, RHC lab staff Orly Soria and Patricia Ogo, CHC lab director Dr. Philip Dauterman and CHC lab manager Jason Pangelinan, ELC coordinator/manager Portia Tomokane, and chief of Ancillary Services Jesse Tudela. ***(PR)***



The Rota Health Center is now capable of performing additional onsite laboratory testing with immediate results, which benefits medical providers and patients seen at RHC's Outpatient Clinic and Emergency Room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota SBDC to host Business Night

File photo show customers checking out the "Mind2Muscle" small business stall at the Small Business Night at the NMC Mango Terrace.

LEIGH GASES

The Rota Small Business Development Center at Northern Marianas College will be hosting its first Business Night, featuring both seasoned and upcoming local entrepreneurs and their products and services. The community is invited to attend the event, which is supported by the Rota Mayor's Office.

Taking place on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, from 5pm to 8pm at the Sinapalo Youth Center, the Business Night will showcase a range of unique and innovative products and services. Attendees can expect to browse handcrafted products, baked goods, local merchandise, handmade accessories, and a variety of food options, among other offerings. In addition, informational booths will be available for those interested in learning more about the SBDC and its services.

The event will feature products from a number of local small businesses, including A&T 2 Enterprises, Island A Heart Retail /JTGA- GTS Construction, Homeland Enterprise and Mascoh's Enterprise, 5 G's Enterprise dba Hagu La'Mun, Bethel Enterprise, Star SioMai, Bake Me Happy, NMI Assets, Kitty Blossom, KFAB Gifts, and BDZ Mow & Throw.

Interested small businesses can contact diana.hocog@marianas.edu for vendor information or call (670) 237-6888. ***(NMC)***

Expiration of car insurance, vehicle registration may now coincide

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a bill that will provide the option for the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration.

Palacios

House Bill 22-3, SD1, which was introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan) in February 2021, now becomes Public Law 22-34.

The House of Representatives passed the bill without amendments on first and final reading last Oct. 1, 2021. The Senate passed it with amendments on first and final reading on Dec. 28,2022. The House accepted the Senate amendments and passed the bill on Jan. 5, 2023.

Many motorists in the CNMI possess two or more vehicles. In many cases, the expiration of the vehicle registration is dissimilar from the expiration of the motor vehicle liability insurance.

The bill amends a provision in the Commonwealth Code to provide the option for motorists and allow for them to choose whether they are in favor of paying a one-time fee and changing the renewal registration dates on their other vehicles.

Flores stated in the bill that by amending the provision and giving motorists such an option, it will allow for better harmony between the renewal registration dates of the vehicles and the finances of the registered motorists who are legally registered on more than one vehicle.

Flores

Flores said that, by mirroring the two expirations of such necessary requirements in operating a vehicle, all motorists will be protected and covered from any unforeseeable circumstance that may cause serious financial and/or physical strains.

He said it is imperative that the financial and physical being of the motorists is protected at all times, especially while operating a vehicle.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2022
4:00 p.m., NMTech Lower Base Campus

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
  a. January 06, 2023
IV. Public Comments
V. Unfinished Business
  a. NMTech By-Laws
  b. All Nominating Committee BOT Vacancies update
VI. New Business
  a. Grant Proposal
VII. Committee Updates
  a. Finance/Personnel
  b. Programs
  c. Foundation
VIII. Sub-committee Updates
  a. EDA Construction Project
IX. Executive Session
X. Announcements
XI. Adjournment

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
2023 SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations including faith based non-profit organizations to participate in the 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of five (5) awards will be provided- 3 for Saipan, 1 for Tinian, and 1 for Rota. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, Building No. 1344 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 beginning February 8, 2023.

Interested applicants should submit two (2) original hard copies and one (1) copy in a flash drive of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant Application. Attention: Esther Wabol, CCDF Administrative Assistant. All applications must be stamped and received by the CCDF Office (including those coming from Rota and Tinian) no later than March 24, at 2:00 p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Maribel Loste, CCDF Director on or before **February 17, 2023.** Inquiries submitted after this date will not be entertained. Inquiries maybe sent via:

1. Hard copy with subject heading: **Questions 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant** and submitted to the CCDF Office Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Court Capitol Hill or
2. Email at mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp with the subject heading: **Questions 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant**

Responses to the inquiries will be posted on **childcare.gov.mp** website with Title: Responses to the 2023 CCDF Summer Program Grant and will be posted on or before February 28, 2023.

/S/
Maribel Loste, M.A.
CCDF Director

/S/
Vivian T. Sablan
Acting DCCA Secretary

21 naturalized in celebration of President's Day

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 21 new citizens in a naturalization ceremony yesterday that marked the celebration of President's Day.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath of allegiance to 21 newly naturalized U.S. citizens through a special ceremony at the CNMI federal courthouse.

The newly naturalized citizens are Luvi Francisco Baylon, Jim Daan Cabanes, Nat Noihong Castle, Lou Kristine Baylon Cruz, Megan Costo Grageda, Mi Soon Jeon, Jasmine Liang Johanson, Lilia Maga King, Efren Gando Lacsina, Aldrin Villanueva Legaspi, Deogracias Jucutan Manese, Eloisa Cardenas Manese, Catlyn Gozum Ortiz, Leo Orodono Pertudo, Violeta Cordero Rallo, Rizalina Bermudes Reyes, Evelyn Fernandez Roda, Arman Saria Sanarez, Dawn Margaret Vallido Sarmiento, Evelyn Japor Tamangided, and Eulaine Libang Uberita.

King, who has been on Saipan for over 40 years, later said that becoming a U.S. citizen is more than a title but the opportunity to do what she's always dreamed of, which is to travel hassle-free.

"I am now able to travel without the need of so many documents. All I need is my passport and I can travel to places like Japan and more," she said.

In addition, she said she wants to have a voice in the place she now considers her home. "I'm really excited to vote and to be in a jury," she said.

Husband and wife Deogracias Jucutan Manese and Eloisa Cardenas Manese shared that naturalization is more than just officially becoming citizens of their home; it also gives them the opportunity to be closer to their children.

"We met here, we built our family here, and this is our home. Becoming a U.S. citizen makes traveling to our children in the [United] States much easier and we now feel closer to them," the pair said.

During yesterday's session, the naturalized citizens heard an inspiring speech from guest speaker Charity Hodson, the president of the CNMI Bar Association and words of encouragement from Manglona.

Both speakers encouraged the new citizens to practice their rights to vote and serve on a jury, which is now part of their duties and responsibilities as citizens.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 21 new citizens in a naturalization ceremony yesterday that marked the celebration of President's Day.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

UKRAINE

From Page 1

of-night, video-recorded plea against the invasion, Zelenskyy warned Russia that the consequences would be "an abundance of pain, filth, blood and death."

"War is a huge calamity," Zelenskyy said, in what proved to be one of his last outings in a suit before his switch to military-style casual wear. "This calamity carries a huge cost—in every meaning of this word."

The date was Feb. 24, 2022—cataclysmic for Ukraine, course-changing for Russia, history-shaping for the wider world. Every hour of every day since has proven those words to be right.

■ ■ ■

As milestones go, the invasion's first anniversary Friday is both grim and vexing. It marks a full year of killing, destruction, loss and pain felt even beyond the borders of Russia and Ukraine—with war-related price shocks being just one example. But it also raises a question that is unsatisfying because it can't be answered at this partway point: How much longer until this stops?

"Not soon enough" might be one response, though any peace deal looks far off as Russia's invasion force meat-grinds into Year Two, with neither side close to reaching hoped-for objectives.

The misery of 365 days of bloodshed and the full scale of the global repercussions are difficult to sum up with mere words. Russia is more isolated than at any time since the Cold War. Western nations are banding together for Russian President Vladimir Putin 's defeat while also gambling that the ex-KGB spy won't go nuclear. China is filing away lessons that could be used against Taiwan.

And how to measure all the tears? How to adequately describe all the suffering and atrocities? Or even the broken heart of just one of the children who have lost loved ones and futures?

The numbers are dizzying: hundreds of thousands of Russian men escaping abroad to avoid being thrown into battle, millions of Ukrainians uprooted from their homes, tens of billions of dollars poured into weaponry that is making war ever-more lethal, trillions more dollars estimated lost for the global economy. And even those figures don't do justice to the human and economic costs.

Of the body count—surely the most important tally, but kept under wraps by both sides—all that can be said with certainty is that it is horrific. Western officials estimate it to be in the many tens of thousands and growing inexorably.

But Ukraine is still here. That in itself is a stinging defeat for the Kremlin. Putin seemingly believed his forces and secret services would have turned Ukraine into a puppet state by now. The invasion plan called for resistant Ukrainian officials to be liquidated, weeded out or flipped into collaborating, according to a British think tank's study based in part on captured Russian documents.

Instead, the threat of extinction as a free nation is pushing Ukraine into an ever-closer orbit with the European Union, the United States and the wider West—the very outcome Putin wanted to avoid. Each additional delivery of NATO-standard weapons, the billions of dollars in other Western aid, and pledges to stand with Ukraine for "as long as it takes" are hard-wiring bonds that, in peacetime, might have taken many more years to build.

CUC

From Page 1

Camacho submitted his resignation letter to the CUC board of directors yesterday and had a meeting with several staff and other people in his office. He came out of his office at almost 6pm yesterday.

Camacho disclosed in an "ambush interview" that his resignation will take effect at the end of his contract, which is due to expire on March 26, 2023. He said he needs to take care of his health.

Camacho said he respects Palacios' decision and wishes the corporation, its board of directors, and most importantly, the staff all the best moving forward.

Palacios recently wrote the CUC board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he expressed concern over the current leadership at CUC. The governor said his primary objective is to appoint new board members and to ensure the appointment of a new and qualified CUC executive director.

Palacios said one of CUC's current challenges is the lack of a qualified executive director, among other issues, which is why he wants to replace Camacho.

Camacho said yesterday that he has been working with CUC for 29 or 30 years.

"I plan to continue to check my health. I've obviously have medical issues," the executive director said, adding that he did address his health issues and need to continue to address it.

In February 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter approved Camacho's appointment as executive director. Carter waived the qualification requirement.

Camacho started as a procurement specialist and became manager at CUC's Power Generation Division for several years.

BOOST

From Page 1

mental health issues, among other behavioral matters.

The non-profit, which was chartered in 2021 but has been in the works since 2018, has entered the second phase of its inception, which is team building and training. The first phase was hiring individuals who are qualified and passionate in providing the services the CNMI desperately needs.

According to Second Wind founder and therapist Grace Pitu Sablan, the goal is to have a soft opening of the facility in April once trainings have been completed.

Sablan explained that Second Wind is an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility that will provide different levels of drug and alcohol treatment, whether it be intensive outpatient or regular outpatient services based on assessment.

"We will [also] partner with Women of Destiny and soon-to-be-chartered Men of Destiny advocacy centers to provide interventions for those out on the streets suffering from addiction," she said.

The organization's founder added that the facility will essentially cater to substance abuse, mental health, homelessness, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. She said they also aim to provide these services to the CNMI's law enforcers.

"We do not have these kinds of services to our front-liners, so we are now also going to target that population to provide mental health services to our law enforcement. We aim to provide the services that are lacking on the island. Our facility will also be providing detox. We don't have sober homes or safehouses so our organization will also work with the Domestic Violence coalition, Karidat [Social Services], and more to be able to better our services and bring in services that are lacking on island so we don't have to send them off-island," she said.

Most importantly, the vision for Second Wind is to have individuals who are in recovery give back by providing services in the facility like counseling as well as hiring highly qualified clinicians to provide optimum care to Second Wind patients.

"Second Wind will also be employing recovery individuals to run the programs Second Wind will provide. Clinicians will be required to have master's degrees and above in fields like substance abuse, family and individual therapy, or mental health. The treatment center will have highly qualified individuals," she said.

FAA

From Page 1

Hawaii this past month and, in addition to critical matters within CPA, one of the concerns raised is CPA's continuity, with the recent transition into a new administration.

To allay these concerns, King-Hinds said that until such time the new administration appoints replacements to the CPA board, she will remain the CPA chairwoman to ensure that CPA fulfills its commitments to its federal regulators.

King-Hinds' term on the CPA board ends in October 2023. She hopes a replacement will be appointed before then so she can ensure continuity by turning over all she has on CPA.

"Until such time the governor appoints replacements, we have work to do. We've made certain commitments to our federal regulators with regards to audit and our compliance and that's what we are focused on. That commitment requires weekly check-ins, and monthly reports. As chair, I've personally committed myself and I'm a part of these weekly check-ins and monthly compliance reports. It's really about CPA's ability to qualify for supplemental funding, which are not entitlements, funds that are not guaranteed annually, these are funding that we compete for. There are a lot of funding options right now that we are going after. You have that issue going," she explained.

King-Hinds added that it is essential that CPA maintains quorum because there is also the ongoing issue regarding funding for the agency and work needs to be done and decisions need to be made.

"Another issue that no one is talking about is the fact that the CPA was in austerity even before the pandemic and that's a reflection of the state of the economy. When you are only operating at 64 hours, that's all you can afford to pay your employees, that's pre-pandemic. That is an issue that needs to be addressed. At the end of this fiscal year, we would have exhausted all our federal funds from [the American Rescue Plan Act]. We've stretched that as far as we can. Now, what we're working on is finding avenues to be able to get additional funds because if we don't do that, the methodology rates we've adopted that focuses on cost-recovery is going to increase the cost of doing business with CPA. We're not getting revenue from the central government and we're not getting revenue from the arrivals," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero pushes autonomous Planning and Development Authority

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero has found that comprehensive and coordinated sustainable development planning under the Office of Planning and Development lacks continuity and enforceability to ensure consistent application of growth standards, information sharing, and public review and comment requirements.

DeLeon Guerrero

To remedy this, DeLeon Guerrero has introduced a proposed legislation that will establish in the Commonwealth government an autonomous Planning and Development Authority.

Under DeLeon Guerrero's Senate Bill 23-27, the Planning and Development Authority shall assume the functions and duties of the Commonwealth Office of Planning and Development and ensure information sharing and planning continuity to sustain growth in accordance with CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan.

The office shall be headed by a chief executive officer appointed by the governor for a four-year term, and subject to the Senate's advice and consent.

DeLeon Guerrero said an autonomous Planning and Development Authority will allow management more flexibility and authority to meet the mandates envisioned in the original legislation while also securing processes for public review and comment of proposed plans and implementation activities.

She said the formal expansion and establishment of the Planning and Development Advisory Council as an advisory body representing the Executive Branch and the broader community will further the shared vision of more sustainable growth throughout the Commonwealth.

DeLeon Guerrero said the Planning and Development Authority shall serve as a clearinghouse for all information related to development, planning, and resource use in the CNMI.

IN MEMORIAM
U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Royal Australian Air Force military officials bow their heads in a brief remembrance of military members lost in World War II on the island of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during Cope North 2023 last Feb. 8, 2023.

U.S. AIR FORCE/ STAFF SGT. DANIEL HERNANDEZ

Callout: Presentations for 14th UOG Regional Conference on Island Sustainability welcome

The upcoming 14th University of Guam Regional Conference on Island Sustainability is open for presentation proposals.

The conference is scheduled for April 11-15, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. A preconference will take place on April 10.

Conference abstracts will be accepted until 5pm on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, Guam time.

The form is available at https://www.uog.edu/cis2023/call-for-abstracts

The conference will convene islanders and their allies to exchange ideas and launch a wave of sustainability over the next year.

The theme challenges islanders and their partners to think beyond limitations and scarcity and "Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance."

The annual conference offers a blend of scholarship, advocacy, and action.

Diverse abstract submissions from academia, government agencies, non-profit organizations, teachers, students, and the general community are welcome.

There are two categories for presentations:

1. **Call for Research:** Abstracts of current or recent research findings should include a description of replicable methods that contribute to the understanding of island sustainability challenges.

2. Call for Action: Abstracts for presentations that will inspire sustainable action in our communities should be evidence-based solutions or plans that will contribute to solving the challenges of island sustainability. Case studies may be included. Please make sure to provide a statement in the abstract that suggests a post-conference implementation plan.

Conference tracks

The 2023 conference tracks align with Categories of Action developed by the Guam Green Growth Working Group to implement the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in locally and culturally effective ways.

Overarching theme: Rediscover the depths of our island abundance

The conference aims to promote thinking about the resources the islands can explore. Some of the conference questions include:

■ How are islands connected, plentiful, and secure?

■ What resources have not been explored—natural resources, deep-sea minerals, undiscovered natural products, or traditional waste?

■ How can islanders properly manage and sustain these resources and ensure their benefits endure?

Previously submitted abstracts will not be selected.

For more information, contact cis@triton.uog.edu or go to the conference website: uog.edu/cis2023 ***(UOG)***

UOG to launch Storyboard 20 tomorrow

The University of Guam Press, in partnership with UOG's Division of English and Applied Linguistics, is launching the 20th issue of *Storyboard: A Journal of Pacific Imagery*.

The launch will be held at 5:30pm tomorrow, Feb. 23 in the atrium of the Tan Lam Pek Kim English and Communications building.

Storyboard 20 features poetry, prose, and artwork from 18 contributors. The journal was curated by a pool of reviewers and the issue's editors—Teresita Perez, Andrea Sant, and Carol Simpson-Warner.

Contributors featured in *Storyboard 20* will be present at the launch. Copies of current and past issues of the journal will also be available for purchase.

The pages of *Storyboard* form a gathering place for art and community, where readers join with artists, and writers explore and connect, said Perez and Simpson-Warner.

Storyboard first launched in 1991, and for over 30 years, the journal has published quality creative writing and artwork from artists throughout the Pacific and promoted literacy across the region.

The latest issue is available for pre-order at uogpress.com for $10.

For more information or inquiries contact UOG Press' publicist Via De Fant at defantv@triton.uog.edu or call (671) 735-2153. ***(PR)***

Strongmen performances this weekend

As another way of spreading the Gospel, and in hopes of bringing inspiration, the Saipan Community Church would be hosting an event featuring the performances of the TV-renowned "Todd Keene and The Power Team" for five days at the American Memorial Park. The first event will kick off on Feb. 22, 2023, and will continue until Feb. 26, 2023.

This one-of-a-kind strongman event will begin at 7pm throughout the week and on Saturday, but on Sunday the show will begin at 4pm. Each session is estimated to last an hour.

SCS announced that the event will be great family entertainment featuring world-class athletes, and the display of power, strength, and speed, all while spreading inspiration and motivation. Todd Keene and The Power Team had been featured on several TV shows, including some nationwide shows like Saturday Night Live, Mad TV, Steve Harvey's Big Time Show, Walker Texas Ranger, and more.

SCS is extending an island-wide invitation to the community for this free event.

For more information, contact SCS pastor Steve at (670) 484-7742, or email him at pastorsteve@saipancommunityschool.com. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes: November 16, 2021 and December 2, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   a. FY 2023 Financial Statements
   b. FY 2024 Budget
   c. Divisional Updates
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-DR Updates
V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Request for Approval - Convert CDBG-DR Rehab./Recon. Program to Grant
   b. Request for Approval – Internal Audit Plan and P&P Manual
   c. Request for Approval of the 2023-24 QAP
   d. Request for Additional Credits – Lotus Homes
   e. Request for Additional Credits – Palm Breeze Homes
   f. Audit Status
   g. NMHC Employee Handbook
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   a. Personnel
   b. Employment Contract Renewal
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/18/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
   A. Investigator's Vacant Position
   B. FSMB's 2023 Annual Meeting – May 4-6, 2023 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
      1. Delegate Scholarships – 3 per Member Board (Dateline: March 15, 2023)
VIII. Investigator's Report - None
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
   A. Governor's Office
      1. Appointments of Cabinet Members, Agency Directors, and Board Members
   B. Legislature
X. Old Business
   A. Proposed Telehealth and Telemedicine Regulations
   B. Proposed Amendments for § 185-10-2600 - Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
   A. New Application
   B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
   A. Next Meeting Date
   B. Adjournment of Meeting

Tinian daughter is promoted to army warrant officer

Chief Warrant Officer III Abigail Baker, who has served in the U.S. Army Active-Duty Component for over 18 years, now has the distinction of being known to be the first female warrant officer from the island of Tinian.

There was a strong incentive in high school for Baker to join the armed forces, but she had never imagined that she would come this far in the service as a warrant officer. Her area of concentration is Human Resources, 420A.

"I attribute much of my success to the strict house rules, family-oriented gatherings, political gathering experiences, my parents' sacrifices, beliefs, and support for education and youth programs on the island," she said.

Baker credits the countless people she has come across for inspiring her, especially her siblings: Lt. Col. Adrian Evangelista (U.S. Marine Corps), Okinawa, Japan; Tech. Sgt. Antonio Evangelista Jr. (U.S. Air Force), Las Vegas, Nevada; and Staff Sgt. Aran Evangelista (U.S. Army), Camp Humphreys, Korea. "They all in some way embedded pride, good morals, and values," Baker added.

From enlisting in 2004 and being an honor graduate out of basic training to earning the title of distinguished honor graduate from the Warrant Officer Basic Course in 2013 after completing a human resource technician course, Baker has moved up the ranks and was recently promoted Chief Warrant Officer III.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CW3 Abigail Baker and Lt. Col. Evangelista pose for a picture in Erbil, Iraq. Both are the son and daughter of Tinian and are children of Antonio Boki Evangelista and Evelyn R. Evangelista.

CW3 Abigail Baker was promoted by Lt. Col. Evangelista in Erbil, Iraq. Both siblings were in harm's way in April of 2020. It was a momentous occasion and one they both will never forget despite the circumstances. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of her most notable accomplishments include being nominated to executive assistant to the commander of the White House Communications Agency, traveling with the agency as an airport presidential communications officer and assistance operations noncommissioned officer.

Entering the service

"The U.S. Army is one of many options to pursue your education while earning a paycheck," she said.

A great benefit and advantage to "marrying your career choice and secondary education," she added, is that it left no burden on her parents.

Baker said she entered the human resources field because she understands the value of people, whom she considers the No. 1 resource. "People are our No. 1 asset. We should always invest in networking and relationships. I meet new people, create systems to make environments better, provide opportunities, military strength management, identifying personnel talent and shortages and run analysis for better customer service. It takes a people-person to run a business!"

Baker's ultimate goal is to pursue as much education that the Army can provide before she retires.

"Retiring at 40 sounds so good right now!" she said. "Tinian holds my heart, I do plan on returning home to extend my services and possibly run for office and maybe hold the position as the CNMI representative in Washington, D.C., 20 to 30 years down the road," she said.

Baker calls on young local students to never settle for less. "…Enjoy your youth but pause every once in a while, and think about the next five-10 years. Reach out and talk to those that have left the rock, returned, and served," she added. "We can all learn from each other's life experiences. Best of all there will always be an islander wherever you are."

Baker is married to James D. Baker and they have three sons:, Dre-Joey, Zachary Dalton, and Ian James. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on Beach Road, Garapan

There will be a water scheduled service interruption on, Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, to allow RNV Construction, the contractor for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Ave – Garapan), to perform temporary isolation of the waterline at Royal Palm Avenue between Palm Street and Micro Beach Road by turning off the 6" gate valve at the intersections of Micro Beach Road and Royal Palm Avenue and Palm Street and Royal Palm Avenue.

This is to isolate the existing 6-inch water line along Royal Palm Avenue in order to be able to cut, cap the existing 6-inch PVC pipe, abandon that is in conflict with the sewer line, and to connect the new relocated 6-inch PVC waterline to the existing waterline at the northside and southside.

Customers in the area will experience low to no water pressure between 8am and 5:30pm on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023. CUC will restore water service as soon as possible.

Please expect water disruptions during the transition phase from the old system to the newly installed PVC sewer line.

For safety of the men and women at the job site, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the sewer line repair.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-23

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED FIRM(S) SERVICING THE AIRPORT INDUSTRY AND SPECIALIZING IN AIRPORT FINANCE RELATED REVENUE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) servicing the airport industry and specializing in airport finance, related revenue planning and development, and passenger facility charges. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning February 15, 2023, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile, or email cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to skye.hofschneider@cnmiports.com on or before March 09, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Professional Services to provide Airport Finance, Related Revenue Planning and Development, and Passenger Facility Charges, Project No. CPA-RFP-006-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Local Time, March 20, 2023, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date _____

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MVA-RFP-23-2030

Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease

Submission /Closing Date: March 10, 2023 Time: 3:00PM ChST
Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
Gold Beach Hotel
Beach Rd., Garapan
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after February 22, 2023 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, Gold Beach Hotel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM ChST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA - RFP -23- 2030- MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE SPACE LEASE".**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before March 10, 2023 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Mr. George A. Sablan in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to gsablan@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on March 10, 2023.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Judy C. Torres
Managing Director, MVA (Acting)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman cluster of schools PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools (Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, and Kagman High School) will be having a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 5:30pm, at the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the schools at 237-3150, 237-3165, or 664-3781 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Kalabera Cave closed for repairs

The Capital Improvement Program under the CNMI Office of the Governor would like to remind the public that the Kalabera Cave will be closed for the safety of the community and visitors until repairs and improvements are completed. Thank you for your understanding. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude quake in Alamagan region

At 3:47am on Feb. 21, 2023, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred at 17.634°N 145.521°E 20 in the Alamagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

JKPL to host Roy Diaz Rechebei Game Day on March 1

In honor of Roy Diaz Rechebei, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be celebrating the Roy Diaz Rechebei or RDR Game Day on Saturday, March 11, 2023 to mark the fifth year since he was called to eternal life on March 11, 2018. We invite all "Magic: The Gathering" players to join and keep their draft booster cards by the end of the game day. MTG card set that will be used for this game day is "Unfinity." Special thanks go out to the Rechebei family for sponsoring the event.

For more information regarding this event or how to sponsor this event, contact Joey Songsong at (670) 235-7323. We welcome and encourage sponsors to please consider donating cash contributions to RDR Game Day. To learn how you can sponsor this library program, contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. ***(PR)***

Power service interruption on Feb. 24

There will be a power service interruption on Feb. 24, 2023, for San Vicente

- Time: 9am to 1pm
- Area affected: San Vicente (Ming Yang Supermarket, Lucky D-2 Market, Zori Zori Gift Shop, Katupat Drive, Gancho Pl., Aludu P1., and Hotdu Dr.)
- Purpose: The line crew will perform systems maintenance by replacing a rotted primary wood power pole to concrete pole along lsa Dr., adjacent to the Ming Yang Supermarket.
- Traffic light affected: As Terlaje, Dandan (near Shell), and San Vicente (near Iglecia ni Cristo)
- Water wells) affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

MILITARY OUTREACH

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific senior military officer for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, gathers for a photo with FSM Vice President Aren Palik, U.S. Embassy Kolonia chargé d'affaires Alissa Bibb, and leadership from around the FSM. During the meeting, leaders discussed the importance of partnership in the region and future plans and projects to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, offers remarks during the 21st Micronesian Presidents Summit, Feb. 13. Nicholson discussed the importance of partnership in the region to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, hears a question from Kiribati President Taneti Maamau during the 21st Micronesian Presidents Summit last Feb. 13. Nicholson met with the heads of state to discuss the importance of partnership in the region to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, meets with FSM Attorney General Joses Gallen, Feb. 13. During the meeting, Nicholson and Gallen discussed the importance of open communication to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, center-right, and U.S. Embassy Kolonia chargé d'affaires Alissa Bibb, center left, attend the 21st Micronesian Presidents Summit, Feb. 13. During the summit, Nicholson offered remarks in regard to security and defense of Micronesia.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, right, and U.S. Embassy Kolonia chargé d'affaires Alissa Bibb, left, attend the 21st Micronesian Presidents Summit, Feb. 13.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, offers remarks during the 21st Micronesian Presidents Summit, Feb. 13.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, Joint Region Marianas commander and U.S. Indo-Pacific defense representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, meets with the U.S. Veterans of Pohnpei Association last Feb. 13. During the meeting, veterans presented Nicholson with a traditional wood carving, recalled their memories in the military, and discussed their needs in the region.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The US must pass a law to prosecute crimes against humanity

At the annual Munich Security Conference on Saturday, Vice President Kamala Harris was direct, saying, "In the case of Russia's actions in Ukraine, we have examined the evidence. We know the legal standards, and there is no doubt: These are crimes against humanity." She spoke of "gruesome acts of murder, torture, rape, and deportation."

The vice president stressed, "And I say to all those who have perpetrated these crimes and to their superiors who are complicit in these crimes: You will be held to account," adding, "Let us all agree, on behalf of all the victims, both known and unknown, justice must be served. Such is our moral interest."

And Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued the formal finding: "Based on a careful analysis of the law and available facts, I have determined that members of Russia's forces and other Russian officials have committed crimes against humanity in Ukraine," concluding that "the United States will pursue justice for the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes."

But that justice will not occur in the U.S., for if a Russian who committed crimes against humanity in Ukraine ended up here, nothing would happen to him. That is because Congress has refused to make such an atrocity an offense, unlike just about every country in the world, including all our major allies.

It was only last month that the U.S. closed a loophole in the 1996 War Crimes Act. Beforehand, only if the victim or perpetrator of a war crime was a U.S. person could there be a prosecution. By voice votes in both chambers, Congress, led by Rep. Jerry Nadler, got rid of the U.S. person limitation and President Joe Biden signed the new Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act last month.

So a Russian who commits war crimes in Ukraine can now be prosecuted by the Department of Justice. But another Russian who committed what could be far worse crimes against humanity remains untouchable. Harris and Blinken are right about crimes against humanity. Now make that illegal under American law.

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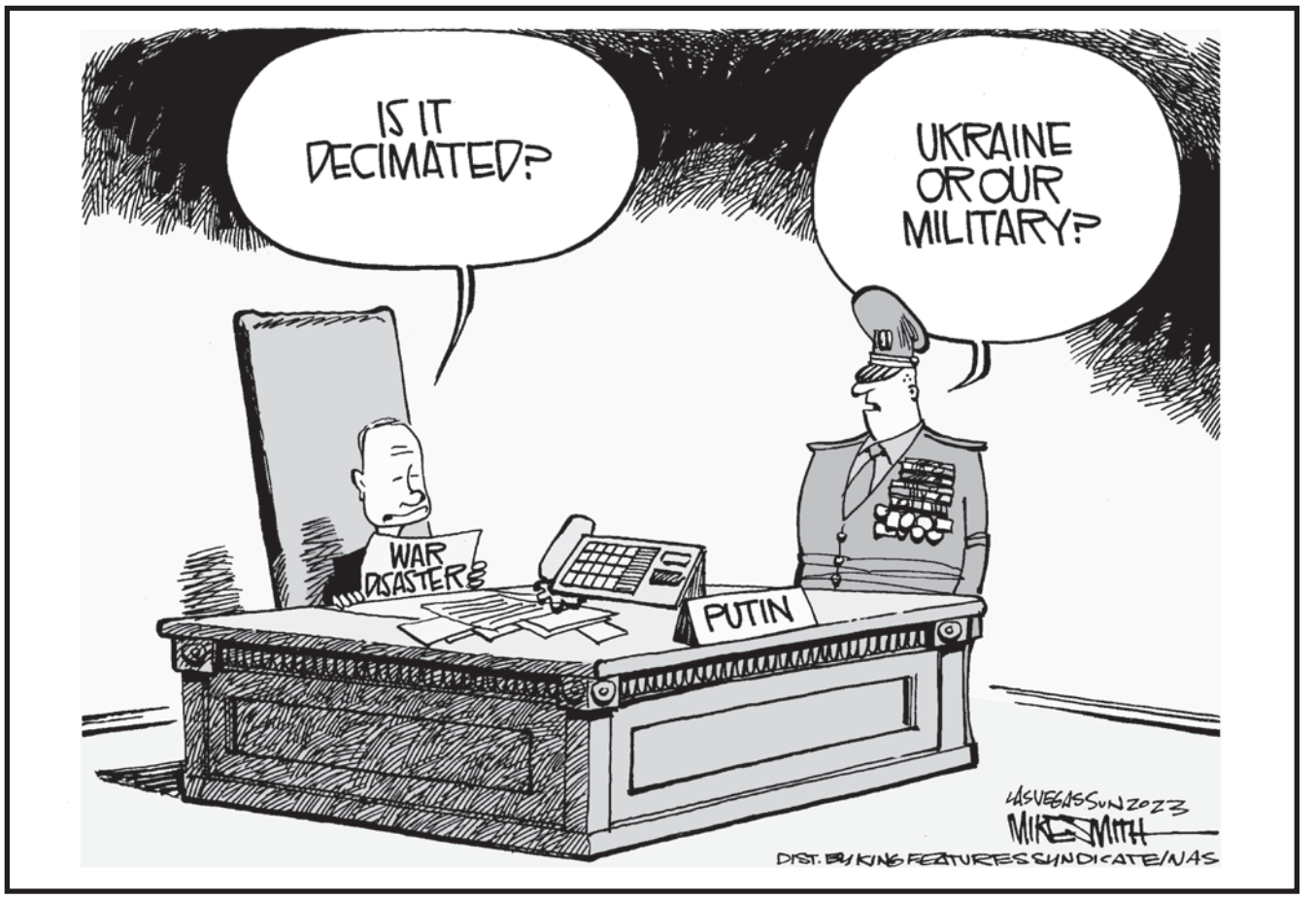


How repeat exposure to shootings like Michigan State's traumatizes young people—and what we can do about it

By SONALI RAJAN, CHARLES BRANAS, and MARK S. KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Yet again this week we are grappling with the news of another mass shooting on school grounds, this time at Michigan State University. Last Monday's shooting took place on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the attack that killed 17 students and staffers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and nine months after the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 21 children and teachers. Some students who were present at the MSU shooting are also survivors of another Michigan school shooting almost 15 months ago at Oxford High School.

What happens when children are repeatedly exposed to this kind of violence, grief and trauma over the course of their lives?

The data are clear: U.S. school shootings have increased over the last few years. An estimated 338,000 children have been exposed to gun violence in K-12 schools alone since 1999. And gun violence on college campuses persists. It is currently the leading cause of death among children and teens in the U.S. There is now a generation of young adults whose childhoods have been directly shaped by exposure to gun violence in and outside of their schools.

Exposure to gun violence at any point during childhood is an adverse childhood experience, and extensive research on exposure to these experiences shows links to dozens of negative outcomes in a person's life. These can include poor mental health, increased risk for chronic disease, addiction, suicide, decreased school success and even premature death. An estimated 30% of children report experiencing at least one adverse childhood experience. The more traumas a child experiences, the greater their risk of poor physical and mental health outcomes.

For young people, exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as gun violence is more likely to result in these long-term serious health challenges if there are limited protective factors in place and if there is no meaningful early intervention or support provided in the aftermath of the trauma.

In response to gun violence specifically, over the past years we have seen increased security in schools and universities through active shooter drills, calls to arm teachers and staff and the addition of more metal detectors, among dozens of other safety tactics. No matter how well-intended, there is little evidence that these solutions reduce the frequency and lethality of these violent acts. This is in spite of the scientific evidence guiding solutions that do work and that our elected officials could turn to in order to help prevent future tragedies.

Given how slow it is to implement meaningful gun reform laws and with the frequency of gun violence, we need to ensure we are doing all we can to support affected communities—especially young people. Early interventions are crucial as they grapple with the direct and indirect consequences of being exposed to repeat gun violence during their formative years. Examples include access to schoolwide services that specifically address post-traumatic stress disorder in the aftermath of a shooting and increased access to primary care, family therapy, grief support and school-based programming that centers trauma-informed practices and care for students and their communities.

Unfortunately, sufficient and ready access to these kinds of support services continues to be hard to come by. Here too, we see politics overriding policy. Many politicians are often quick to blame mental illness for this kind of violence, but many of these same legislators recently voted against a federal mental health bill and a school safety act that would have provided a significant funding increase for mental health programs. At a time when we lack the most basic services for students, as observed in the current shortage of school psychologists and other mental health professionals, this kind of support is crucial.

As a nation, we are not preventing these shootings and are not equipped with the resources or infrastructure to effectively support communities in either the short- or long-term aftermath of these violent acts. All students, whether kindergartners or college students, deserve to attend school in a safe, secure and supportive environment. They deserve more than 48 hours of canceled classes and meaningless calls for "thoughts and prayers" if a tragedy does occur. They deserve a comprehensive, science-informed, thoughtful gun violence prevention plan that puts them first and works to change the structures that can lead to shootings like the one at MSU. The good news is that those solutions exist. We now need to start carrying them out.

Sonali Rajan is associate professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. Charles Branas is professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Mark S. Kaplan is professor of social welfare at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Changes in grading and homework policies are turning education upside down

By GREG RICHMOND
Chicago Tribune

Greg Richmond is superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Chicago, which includes 152 K-8 schools and three high schools in Cook and Lake counties.

As bad as the pandemic was for student learning, if some current education fads continue, the future could be worse.

By now, almost everyone has seen reports about pandemic learning loss. A study published in January by the journal Nature Human Behavior found that children around the world lost more than one-third of a school year's worth of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most definitive study in the United States, the Education Recovery Scorecard, found students lost about a half of a year in math and one-quarter of a year in reading.

The pandemic may be over, but those academic declines may be just the beginning as some schools are now turning the very purpose of schooling on its head. Across the country, we are seeing schools de-emphasizing or banning practices that have long been the norm, such as homework, grades, attendance and academic recognition.

Numerous public school districts now prohibit teachers from giving students a score of less than 50% on homework, no matter what. Scores of zero—or any score below 50%—are prohibited, even if no work is turned in or if the student turns in plagiarized work. Other school districts, such as Prince George's County, Maryland, mandate 50% credit if students show a "good-faith effort."

The publication Edutopia reports: "These changes in grading policy are moving in tandem with national efforts to abolish letter grades." In California, several big public school districts, including Los Angeles, still allow grades, but only A's, B's, and C's. D's and F's are no longer allowed. But make no mistake, this is a national phenomenon. If you do a Google search for "eliminating grades in schools," you will get millions of search results.

One Virginia high school has gone a step further, not just rewarding students who do no work but also penalizing students with high academic achievement. Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria withheld National Merit awards notifications from students and their families. These students did not learn that their hard work and study had placed them among the best in the country. Because the school did not tell them about the awards, they were unable to mention the honor on college and scholarship applications. This was no administrative oversight; it was on purpose.

One of the school officials who withheld the notifications offered this rationale: "We want to recognize students for who they are as individuals, not focus on their achievements."

Even school systems that have built their reputations on academic rigor have changed their stripes. The renowned KIPP Public Charter Schools network, which had years of success preparing disadvantaged youths for college, dropped its motto, "Work Hard. Be Nice," in July 2020. Why? According to its public statement, the motto "supports the illusion of meritocracy."

What a tragedy for students to be told, "Don't work hard. It's all an illusion." Many private independent schools that are predominantly white and predominantly wealthy are eschewing grades in the name of equity and wellness. A 2022 article in the Independent School magazine asserted, "Our traditional practice of grading everything students do inadvertently sows distrust, shame, and deceit." Deceit? Education has indeed been turned upside down.

But not everywhere. Catholic schools still deliver letter grades. And across the country, Catholic schools emerged from the pandemic with relatively strong academic performance. As measured in last year's National Assessment of Educational Progress, Catholic schools' eighth grade reading scores increased during the pandemic, while public school scores declined. Catholic school students' average scores remained higher than the average scores of their eighth grade public school peers in the assessment.

"If Catholic schools were a state, they would be the highest performing in the nation on all four NAEP tests," Kathleen Porter-Magee, superintendent of Partnership Schools, a network of Catholic schools in New York and Ohio, tweeted in October.

Here in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we are achieving those strong academic results while serving a student population of every race, ethnicity, income level and faith. While each Catholic school is unique, you are not likely to find a Catholic school that gives credit for plagiarized work or zero effort. We believe that grading is an important tool for students and parents. We still believe in hard work and, for that matter, being nice too. Fortunately, we are not alone in these beliefs. You will still find many other public, private and religious schools that share them.

There may be a place in our society for schools that teach that meritocracy is an illusion. Some parents may want that kind of education for their child, but most parents will not.

The key for all parents is to ask questions of your child's school. Do you award letter grades? Do you give credit when no work is done or when work is plagiarized? What is your policy on student attendance and tardiness? What are the consequences for students who break the rules? What does the school do to recognize and celebrate academic achievement? Do you believe students should work hard and be nice?

There is no one right answer to these questions. Opinions vary. But parents should know how their child's school approaches education and should pick the school that best fits their own beliefs and their child's needs.

College's purpose is to create citizens, not to be a job placement service

By JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
Chicago Tribune

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches education and history at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of Whose America: Culture Wars in the Public Schools, *which was recently published in a revised 20th anniversary edition by the University of Chicago Press.*

On his first day in office in January, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro declared that most state jobs would not require a college degree. And in his State of the Union address this month, President Joe Biden put forth a "blue-collar blueprint to repair America" that emphasized well-paid jobs for working-class people. "Let's offer every American the path to a good career whether they go to college or not," Biden urged.

They're right: You shouldn't have to attend college to acquire decent-paying employment. So why have college at all?

To prepare citizens, of course. Our colleges and universities were founded to ready people for the tasks of collective self-government: reason, deliberation and tolerance. If you haven't noticed, those skills are in short supply right now. We're more likely to shout and cancel than to talk and listen.

Since the 1960s, however, we have too often imagined higher education as a job placement service rather than a place to make citizens. And that's very bad news, for both our colleges and the society that they ostensibly serve.

On the right, politicians such as Florida U.S. Sen. Rick Scott and former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory have suggested that states shouldn't assist students who major in the humanities and social sciences because these disciplines don't generate as many jobs as fields related to science, technology, engineering and math do. "Do we need to use your tax dollars to educate more people who can't get jobs in anthropology?" Scott asked a business group in 2011. "I don't. I want to make sure we spend our money where people can get jobs when they get out."

Actually, there's evidence from a 2013 survey of employers by the Association of American Colleges and Universities that some employers favor students with a strong liberal arts background to those with degrees in "practical" fields such as business. But once we decide that the main purpose of college is to obtain a job, we inevitably diminish its other goals. Students come through to get their ticket stamped, not to get a deeper understanding of the world.

And that doesn't seem to trouble Democrats, who have embraced the mantra of "more education" as the solution to underemployment, poverty and every other economic problem. As historian Jon Shelton shows in his new book "The Education Myth: How Human Capital Trumped Social Democracy," liberals imagine that a more educated workforce will also be a more prosperous one.

Tell that to students who are struggling to pay back their college debt—which has soared to $1.6 trillion nationwide—or to those thrown out of work during the country's periodic recessions. True, the average college graduate earns nearly twice as much as people who have just a high school degree. But a Bachelor of Arts is not a guarantee against poverty and unemployment, which can be solved only with wider social investments in health, infrastructure and workplace training. And those efforts will assist everyone, whether they're bound for college or not.

So I was glad to see Biden announce programs to create better-paying jobs across the board. And kudos to Shapiro and Larry Hogan, who as Maryland governor likewise eliminated the B.A. requirement for thousands of state jobs.

Shapiro is a Democrat, and Hogan is a Republican, which suggests the making of a rare bipartisan consensus around the issue of college and employment. But it also raises a new challenge for colleges: How can we forge a purpose beyond preparing for employment?

The answer is to double down on what Hogan called our historical raison d'etre: to cultivate "civic virtue in public life." A large swath of our students are either checked out of politics or afraid to express their opinions for fear of causing offense. A much smaller number spend their time policing or canceling others for alleged transgressions, which is bullying by another name.

And the faculty? Most of us are much more interested in furthering our own research—which is the best route to promotion and salary raises—than in enhancing the civic education of our students. We know that our students often lack the will or skill to participate in political affairs. We just won't do anything about it.

At the University of Pennsylvania, where I teach, the SNF Paideia Program promotes events and courses that emphasize civic engagement and dialogue. Yet these worthy efforts are mostly preaching to the converted, because only people who are already disposed to the activity participate in it.

A more promising approach is taking root at Stanford University, which is piloting a core course for first-year students called "Citizenship in the 21st Century." Most of the university's 1,700 incoming students will take the class, which examines how humans can work together toward collective goals while also respecting individual differences.

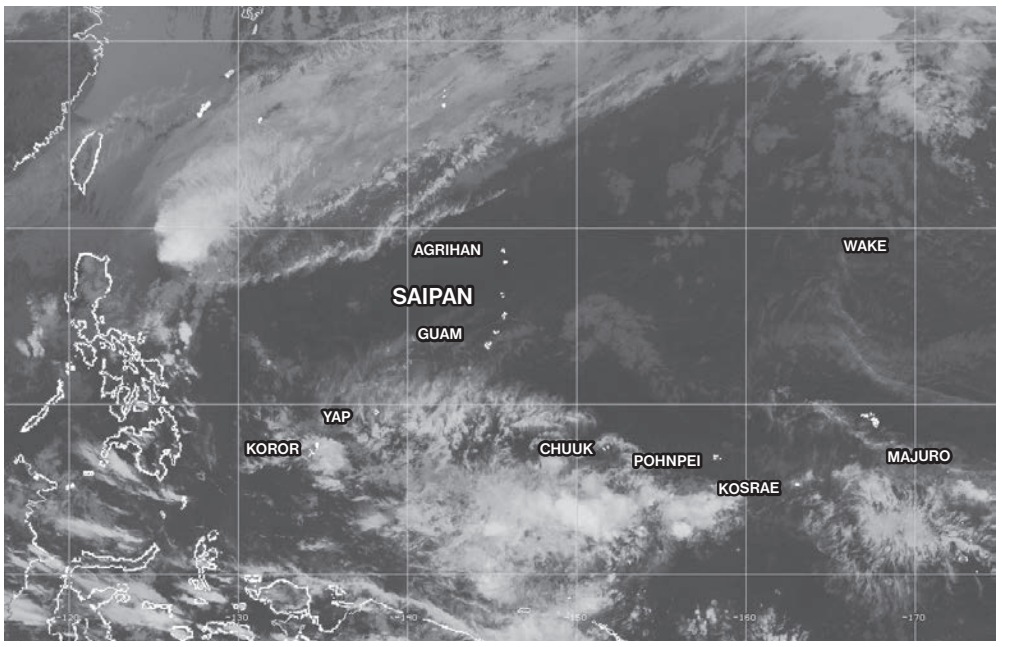
You shouldn't have to go to college to get a good job or to share in the bounty of America. But everyone who goes to college should have to prepare for the only job that all of us share: being a citizen. That used to be the main reason for higher education. We need to make it so again.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
85º 74º	85º 74º	85º 74º	85º 74º	84º 73º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate remnants of a shearline are bringing scattered light showers across Guam and Rota waters. The buoys indicate seas are between 8 and 9 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Majuro	Isolated Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:05 AM	8:22 PM	-
Thursday	8:47 AM	9:18 PM	-
Friday	9:27 AM	10:13 PM	-
Saturday	10:07 AM	11:07 PM	-
Sunday	10:49 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 62°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 39°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	59° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 55°
Miami	Showers	81° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 31°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	51° / 37°
Paris	Cloudy	41° / 36°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 35°
Rome	Showers	58° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	58° / 39°
San Francisco	Rain/Wind	51° / 37°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	35° / 25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 40°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	45° / 25°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:09 AM	Low Tide	-0.38
9:36 AM	High Tide	1.90
3:39 PM	Low Tide	0.57
9:04 PM	High Tide	1.89

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	1, 4, 5, 7
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7

ROTA TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

GUAM TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BAB introduces 3-choice meals for $10.50

BAB Korean Restaurant is switching things up by introducing 3-choice, 2-choice, and 1-choice meals based on their ever popular Cup BAB menu.

Dante Conlu, who handles marketing and promotions for the Garapan restaurant, said they recently had an introductory weeklong promotion where their 3-choice meal went on sale for only $4.99.

He said they're now going full blast on the new meal promotions where customers can either dine-in or take-out Cup BAB favorites like tteok (Korean rice cakes), dak gang jeong (crispy Korean fried chicken), Squid BAB, K-noodles (japchae), soy chicken, bulgogi (spicy and regular), Korean dumplings, LA BBQ BAB, Pork BBQ, and Ocean BAB, among other bestsellers.

Conlu said a 1-choice meal costs $7.35, 2-choice is $8.75, and 3-choice is $10.50. It comes with free rice, hot soup, and one side of banchan (Korean vegetable side dish).

The weeklong 3-choice $4.99 promotion was a big hit where a large crowd of customers sampled Cub BAB selections in a dine-in setting.

For those pining for Korean barbecue, while BAB Korean Restaurant has stopped its popular buffet offering, it still has its ala carte menu with marinated pork BBQ set priced at $36, plain LA short ribs BBQ set priced at $50, and pork belly BBQ set also priced at $36.

MARK RABAGO
BAB Korean Restaurant's Cup BAB menu is now available for dine-in via their new 3-choice, 2-choice, and 1-choice meals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
BAB Korean Restaurant's 3-choice meal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
BAB Korean Restaurant's marinated pork BBQ set.

BAB Korean Restaurant also recently introduced slush drinks after investing on a spanking new slush machine. It comes in four flavors—cola, mango, peach, and papaya—and three sizes—large ($4), medium ($3), and small ($2).

To appeal to the party crowd, they've also recently opened five private karaoke rooms that can seat as much as 20 customers. Groups can rent it for free as long as they order at least $100 worth of food from the restaurant. Those who opt not to order can still use the private karaoke rooms for $25 an hour ($35 for the big room) or $15 for 30 minutes.

An ongoing February-March promotion also gives away one hour of free use of their private karaoke rooms if you purchase $45 worth of food from Cup BAB, while any $25 purchase gives you a small slush drink.

BAB Korean Restaurant is located at the old Caesar's Sauna building along Beach Road in Garapan. It's open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 9:30pm. Cup BAB drive-thru in Garapan and San Jose are open from 10am to 9pm, while the one in San Antonio closes 30 minutes earlier at 8:30pm. For reservations and for more information, call 233-4222 (Garapan and San Antonio), 235-4222 (San Jose) or contact them on their Facebook page: Cup BAB.

Social Security and Medicare: Troubling math, tough politics

WASHINGTON (AP)—It seems no one wants to cut Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Not President Joe Biden, who is already telling voters his upcoming federal budget proposal will "defend and strengthen" the programs. Not Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who has declared cuts to the programs off the table in negotiations to raise the federal debt limit.

There's just one glitch with these declarations: Social Security won't be able to pay out its promised benefits in about a dozen years, while Medicare won't be able to do so in just five years. Economists have done the projections and say both programs will drive the national debt higher in the decades to come, forcing teeth-gritting choices for the next generation of lawmakers.

Here's a breakdown of the dilemma, the potential fixes and the harsh politics around Social Security and Medicare:

THE CHALLENGE

It's a math problem that requires a political solution.

Payroll taxes largely fund Social Security and Medicare. They generally get deducted from workers' paychecks, which is why Biden, a Democrat, says people are merely getting back what they've already paid into the system.

But as more baby boomers age and retire, there are more beneficiaries and not enough tax revenue to fund the programs. Payroll taxes are expected to generate $1.56 trillion this year, but the combined costs of Social Security and Medicare are likely to be $2.16 trillion, according to a Congressional Budget Office report last week. The office warned in its report that Social Security benefits may need to be cut even earlier than past projections, beginning in 2032.

CBO Director Phillip Swagel said Friday at a Bipartisan Policy Center event that "benefits today are being paid in full as promised, drawing down on the Social Security trust fund." But when the government is unable to pay full benefits, "that's a challenge," he said.

The number of people enrolled in Medicare has more than tripled to roughly 65 million since its inception in 1966. More than 10 million new retirees and disabled people joined in just the past decade, according to data from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

The shortfall in tax revenues combined with a rising number of recipients would eventually lead to Social Security's trust fund being unable to fully pay benefits in 2035, a Social Security and Medicare trustees report predicted last June, though the CBO said it could happen sooner. Medicare's trust fund would be unable to pay full benefits starting in 2028.

This forces the inevitable choice of whether to shore up the trust funds' finances or reduce people's benefits. Continued delays by Congress and the president in addressing this math problem could narrow the number of potential fixes.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

There is basically some combination of four options:

- Raise taxes.
- Change benefits such as the eligibility age.
- Cut costs.
- Rely more on general revenues to cover the gap, which could mean higher budget deficits or cuts to other programs.

Biden took a step last year with his Inflation Reduction Act, which would allow Medicare to negotiate lower prices on a handful of drugs and charge drug companies when they raise the price of drugs faster than inflation. The law also makes vaccines free, caps monthly out-of-pocket insulin costs at $35 and limits out-of-pocket drug expenses at $2,000 starting in 2025.

The CBO said the prescription drug components of the law would save $237 billion over 10 years, prompting some Republican lawmakers to say it was a spending cut that would dig into pharmaceutical companies' profits, forcing them to limit how much they spend developing new treatments. But the law aims to lower the cost people pay for medication, rather than ax benefits.

Democrats are also trying to rein in spending on the increasingly popular—and expensive—Medicare Advantage program, a network of private insurance plans that are reimbursed by the government. Recently, 70 Democrats signed a letter to the president asking his administration to crack down on scams and wasteful spending in the program, which federal investigators say has cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, has pushed legislation that would create bipartisan committees to look at ways to salvage the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The bill has gone nowhere but has limited bipartisan support, including from Senate Democrats Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Mark Warner of Virginia.

Payroll taxes were capped last year at $147,000—meaning no one paid the taxes after surpassing that threshold. In 2019, Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., proposed a bill that would reinstitute the payroll tax at earnings above $400,000.

Last year, members of the House Republican Study Committee proposed raising the age at which someone could qualify for Social Security and Medicare. Right now, people can access their full Social Security benefits at 67, an age minimum that's increased by two years since the program was first established nearly 90 years ago. You must be at least 65 to access Medicare.

Nation

Biden declares 'Kyiv stands' in surprise visit to Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—President Joe Biden swept unannounced into Ukraine on Monday to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a defiant display of Western solidarity with a country still fighting what he called "a brutal and unjust war" days before the first anniversary of Russia's invasion.

"One year later, Kyiv stands," Biden declared after meeting Zelenskyy at Mariinsky Palace. Jabbing his finger for emphasis on his podium, against a backdrop of three flags from each country, he continued: "And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands. The Americans stand with you, and the world stands with you."

Biden spent more than five hours in the Ukrainian capital, consulting with Zelenskyy on next steps, honoring the country's fallen soldiers and seeing U.S. embassy staff in the besieged country. Altogether he was on Ukrainian territory for about 23 hours, traveling by train from and back to Poland.

The visit came at a crucial moment: Biden is trying to keep allies unified in their support for Ukraine as the war is expected to intensify with spring offensives. Zelenskyy is pressing allies to speed up delivery of promised weapon systems and calling on the West to provide fighter jets — something that Biden has declined to do.

The U.S. president got a taste of the terror that Ukrainians have lived with for close to a year when air raids sirens howled just as he and Zelenskyy wrapped up a visit to the gold-domed St. Michael's Cathedral.

Looking solemn, they continued unperturbed as they laid two wreaths and held a moment of silence at the Wall of Remembrance honoring Ukrainian soldiers killed since 2014, the year Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and Russian-backed fighting erupted in eastern Ukraine.

AP

President Joe Biden, center, poses with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and Olena Zelenska, left, spouse of President Zelenskyy, at Mariinsky Palace during an unannounced visit in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, Feb. 20, 2023.

The White House would not go into specifics, but national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that it notified Moscow of Biden's visit to Kyiv shortly before his departure from Washington "for deconfliction purposes" in an effort to avoid any miscalculation that could bring the two nuclear-armed nations into direct conflict.

In Kyiv, Biden announced an additional half-billion dollars in U.S. assistance—on top of the more than $50 billion already provided—for shells for howitzers, anti-tank missiles, air surveillance radars and other aid but no new advanced weaponry.

Ukraine has also been pushing for battlefield systems that would allow its forces to strike Russian targets that have been moved back from front-line areas, out of the range of HIMARS missiles that have already been delivered. Zelenskyy said he and Biden spoke about "long-range weapons and the weapons that may still be supplied to Ukraine even though it wasn't supplied before." But he did not detail any new commitments.

"Our negotiations were very fruitful," Zelenskyy added. Sullivan would not detail any potential new capabilities for Ukraine, but said there was a "good discussion" of the subject.

Biden's mission with his visit to Kyiv, which comes before a scheduled trip to Warsaw, Poland, is to underscore that the United States is prepared to stick with Ukraine "as long as it takes" to repel Russian forces even as public opinion polling suggests that U.S. and allied support for providing weaponry and direct economic assistance has started to soften. For Zelenskyy, the symbolism of having the U.S. president stand side by side with him on Ukrainian land as the anniversary nears is no small thing as he prods allies to provide more advanced weaponry and step up delivery.

"I thought it was critical that there not be any doubt, none whatsoever, about U.S. support for Ukraine in the war," Biden said.

Biden's trip was a brazen rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who had hoped his military would swiftly overrun Kyiv within days. Biden, a Democrat, recalled speaking with Zelenskyy on the night of the invasion, saying, "That dark night one year ago, the world was literally at the time bracing for the fall of Kyiv. Perhaps even the end of Ukraine."

A year later, the Ukrainian capital remains firmly in Ukrainian control. Although a semblance of normalcy has returned to the city, regular air raid sirens and frequent missile and killer-drone attacks against military and civilian infrastructure across the country are a near-constant reminder that the war is still raging. The bloodiest fighting is, for the moment, concentrated in the country's east, particularly around the city of Bakhmut, where Russian offensives are underway.

Record 6,542 guns intercepted at US airport security in 2022

ATLANTA (AP)—The woman flying out of Philadelphia's airport last year remembered to pack snacks, prescription medicine and a cellphone in her handbag. But what was more important was what she forgot to unpack: a loaded .380-caliber handgun in a black holster.

The weapon was one of the 6,542 guns the Transportation Security Administration intercepted last year at airport checkpoints across the country. The number—roughly 18 per day—was an all-time high for guns intercepted at U.S. airports, and is sparking concern at a time when more Americans are armed.

"What we see in our checkpoints really reflects what we're seeing in society, and in society there are more people carrying firearms nowadays," TSA administrator David Pekoske said.

With the exception of pandemic-disrupted 2020, the number of weapons intercepted at airport checkpoints has climbed every year since 2010. Experts don't think this is an epidemic of would-be hijackers — nearly everyone caught claims to have forgotten they had a gun with them — but they emphasize the danger even one gun can pose in the wrong hands on a plane or at a checkpoint.

Guns have been intercepted literally from Burbank, California, to Bangor, Maine. But it tends to happen more at bigger airports in areas with laws more friendly to carrying a gun, Pekoske said. The top 10 list for gun interceptions in 2022 includes Dallas, Austin and Houston in Texas; three airports in Florida; Nashville, Tennessee; Atlanta; Phoenix; and Denver.

Pekoske isn't sure the "I forgot" excuse is always true or whether it's a natural reaction to getting caught. Regardless, he said, it's a problem that must stop.

When TSA staffers see what they believe to be a weapon on the X-ray machine, they usually stop the belt so the bag stays inside the machine and the passenger can't get to it. Then they call in local police.

Repercussions vary depending on local and state laws. The person may be arrested and have the gun confiscated. But sometimes they're allowed to give the gun to a companion not flying with them and continue on their way. Unloaded guns can also be placed in checked bags assuming they follow proper procedures. The woman in Philadelphia saw her gun confiscated and was slated to be fined.

For poor schools, building repairs zap COVID relief money

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The air-conditioning gave out as students returned from summer break last year to Jim Hill High School in Jackson, Mississippi, forcing them to learn in sweltering heat. By Thanksgiving, students were huddling under blankets because the heat wasn't working.

Along the way students dealt with broken showers in locker rooms, plumbing issues and a litany of other problems in the nearly 60-year-old school building.

"There's been times we've been cold, there's been times we've been hot," said Mentia Trippeter, a 17-year-old senior. "There's been times where it rained and it poured, we've been drowning. We go through it—we go through it, man."

Like other schools serving low-income communities across the country, Jim Hill has long dealt with neglected infrastructure that has made it harder for students to learn. So when Jackson Public Schools received tens of millions of dollars in federal COVID relief money, it decided to put much of the windfall toward repairing heating and plumbing problems, some of which temporarily caused the school to switch to remote learning.

For poorer school districts, deciding what to do with that money has involved a tough tradeoff: work on long-term academic recovery or fix long-standing infrastructure needs.

All told, the federal government has allocated $190 billion in pandemic relief aid to help schools recover — more than four times the amount the U.S. Education Department spends on K-12 schools in a typical year, and with few strings attached.

An Associated Press analysis of school district spending plans from across the country found that the poorest districts in each state are far more likely than the richest districts to spend emergency relief funds on upgrading their buildings or transportation systems.

Jackson's academic needs are no less pressing. The majority of students in the district learned virtually for a year and a half during the pandemic and math test scores plummeted by the equivalent of over a full year's worth of learning, according to Harvard and Stanford's Education Recovery Scorecard. But school officials didn't want to miss a rare opportunity to fix infrastructure issues — some of which date back decades.

William Merritt, the school district's chief of staff, said the funds gave the district the ability to "provide our students with tools that other students in well-to-do districts have."

The data in AP's analysis came from education market research firm Burbio, which reviewed how more than 6,000 districts across the country, representing over 75% of the nation's public school students, planned to spend their federal relief money. The data covered the final and largest round of federal aid to schools, totaling $122 billion.

The AP found that school districts with the highest percentage of children living in poverty—the poorest 20% of districts in each state—were more than three times as likely as the wealthiest school districts to dedicate money to the construction of new buildings or classrooms. School districts with high levels of poverty were also more than twice as likely to include money for facilities repairs.

"The poor districts are doing it because they're chasing after emergencies," said Mary Filardo, executive director of the 21st Century School Fund.

Infrastructure is a prime example of long-standing inequities in school funding. While affluent districts can rely on local tax revenue to pay for major improvement projects such as installing state-of-the-art heating and ventilation systems, poorer districts that cannot often spend more money over time on short-term fixes.

In Texas, the Victoria Independent School District is also grappling with competing infrastructure needs and pandemic recovery. It plans to spend half of the $28.4 million it received in the last round of relief funds on academics, teacher retention and student supports that include social-emotional behavior specialists.

World

Biden to rally allies as Ukraine war gets more complicated

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is set to consult with allies from NATO's eastern flank in Poland on Tuesday as the Russian invasion of Ukraine edges toward an even more complicated stage.

After paying an unannounced visit to Kyiv, Biden made his way to Warsaw on Monday on a mission to solidify Western unity as both Ukraine and Russia prepare to launch spring offensives. The conflict — the most significant war in Europe since World War II — has already left tens of thousands dead, devastated Ukraine's infrastructure system and damaged the global economy.

"I thought it was critical that there not be any doubt, none whatsoever, about U.S. support for Ukraine in the war," Biden said as he stood with Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv before departing for Poland. "The Ukrainian people have stepped up in a way that few people ever have in the past."

Biden is scheduled to meet with Polish President Andrzej Duda and deliver an address from the gardens of Warsaw's Royal Castle on Tuesday, where he's expected to highlight the commitment of the central European country and other allies to Ukraine over the past year. On Wednesday, he'll consult with Duda and other leaders of the Bucharest Nine, a group of the easternmost members of NATO military alliance.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden would underscore in his Warsaw address that Russian President Vladimir Putin wrongly surmised "that Ukraine would cower and that the West would be divided" when he launched his invasion.

"He got the opposite of that across the board," Sullivan said.

While Biden is looking to use his whirlwind trip to Europe as a moment of affirmation for Ukraine and allies, the White House has also emphasized that there is no clear endgame to the war in the near term and the situation on the ground has become increasingly complex.

The administration on Sunday revealed it has new intelligence suggesting that China, which has remained on the sidelines of the conflict, is now considering sending Moscow lethal aid. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it could become a "serious problem" if Beijing follows through.

Biden and Zelenskyy discussed capabilities that Ukraine needs "to be able to succeed on the battlefield" in the months ahead, Sullivan said. Zelenskyy has been pushing the U.S. and European allies to provide fighter jets and long-range missile systems known as ATACMS —which Biden has declined to provide so far. Sullivan declined to comment on whether there was any movement on the matter during the leaders' talk.

With no end in sight for the war, the anniversary is a critical moment for Biden to try to bolster European unity and reiterate that Putin's invasion was a frontal attack on the post-World War II international order. The White House hopes the president's visit to Kyiv and Warsaw will help bolster American and global resolve.

"It is going to be a long war," said Michal Baranowski, managing director of the German Marshall Fund East. "If we don't have the political leadership and if we don't explain to our societies why this war is critical for their security ... then Ukraine would be in trouble."

US urges UN to condemn North Korea; China, Russia blame US

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and its allies urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to condemn North Korea's unlawful ballistic missile launches, but China and Russia blamed the U.S. for escalating tensions with stepped-up military exercises targeting Pyongyang.

At the emergency meeting, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the council that the United States will propose a presidential statement, saying at a minimum all 15 members should be agreeable to condemning the North's unprecedented missile launches, to urging Pyongyang to comply with U.N. Security Council sanctions resolutions, and "to engage in meaningful dialogue."

A presidential statement from the Security Council requires the support of all its members, including North Korea's closest allies, China and Russia.

Thomas-Greenfield said the United States condemns North Korea's firing of two short-range ballistic missiles Monday following the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile Saturday "in the strongest terms" as "flagrant violations" of the council's ban on the country's ballistic missile launches.

The launches and North Korea's threatening rhetoric are undermining international peace and security, Thomas-Greenfield said.

And she warned the council that its silence and failure to condemn the North's missile activities "leads to irrelevance."

But Pyongyang's allies China and Russia countered that what's needed now is dialogue between North Korea and the Biden administration, a de-escalation of military exercises, an easing of sanctions on North Korea, and approval of a resolution they circulated in November 2021 aimed at resolving the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

That resolution urges the Security Council to end a host of sanctions against North Korea and calls on the U.S. and North Korea to resume dialogue and consider taking steps to reduce tensions and the risk of military confrontation including by adopting a declaration or peace treaty formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War. The war ended with an armistice, leaving the peninsula technically in a state of war.

China's Deputy U.N. Ambassador Dai Bing said joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises "on a higher level and a bigger scale," the deployment of U.S. strategic assets, and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's high-profile visit to Seoul and Tokyo two weeks ago, are ""highly provocative" to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, "and aggravate a sense of insecurity."

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
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†Vincent Mendiola Calvo

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to our families and friends for your unending love, support, and time you have given us in our time of grief and profound sorrow.

Your words of compassion, generosity, kindness, and most especially prayers have eased our pain and continue to give us comfort, strength, and peace.

Your stories, memories, and pictures shared with us, since his untimely passing, reflect how his big heart and lively spirit was far-reaching and how much he will be missed.

We ask that you continue to honor his memory by sharing the beauty and potential of our islands, staying connected with each other, and loving God and one another, as he did.

We are truly grateful for your presence during the daily masses on Rota, Saipan, & Guam, the daily rosaries held in person & virtually by our Salem, Oregon families, the welcoming of him back to his beautiful island of Luta, and for being with us to celebrate his eternal life.

May God continue to hold each of you in His great love.

Salomae "Mae" Hocog Calvo & Family

Good Housekeeping

What's in and what's out for interior design in 2023

By KAITLYN KEEGAN
HARTFORD COURANT

As the gray trend, open shelving and massive lighting begin to make their bow, bursts of bold color, individualism, vintage furniture, irregular and imperfect and modernist curves are taking the stage.
PETRO KUPRYNENKO/DREAMSTIME/TNS

If you haven't been already, it's time to start thinking about the design of your home and what's changing in the new year.

As the gray trend, open shelving and massive lighting begin to make their bow, bursts of bold color, individualism, vintage furniture, irregular and imperfect and modernist curves are taking the stage.

"Colors are back in a big way, with plenty of trending colors to choose from," Sharon McCormick, of Sharon McCormick Designs, said. "Magenta, golds, reds, teal and earth tones are replacing the white and neutral interiors of the past decade. We are ready for the zest of vibrant colors."

To bring color into a room, consider painting the walls, getting a new rug, new pillows or some kind of fabric and accessories.

"Don't forget ceilings as an opportunity to use color," McCormick said. "Deep colors look even more compelling on walls or built-ins when lacquered."

KITCHENS

In your kitchen, the time of gray and blue cabinets is going away while white mixed with lighter wood elements is coming in.

"Pieces of furniture used as kitchen islands, rather than cabinetry, add individualism and a way to bring the design aesthetic of nearby rooms into the kitchen," she said.

Quartz countertops are still trending. The light countertops can be contrasted with items such as a black stainless steel non-scratchable sink.

Another trend coming in are workstation sinks with built-in cutting boards, dish racks and multi-bowl sinks. This allows you to change the configuration to be able to prep and wash in one location.

BATHROOMS

In your bathroom, matte black is the star of 2023.

"Matte black is the 2023 standard bearer for bathroom plumbing fixtures and accessories," McCormick said. "Black is always chic and sophisticated. Spa-like bathrooms are still wildly popular, but graphic matte black is another way to go."

Blues in bathrooms have been popular for its watery appeal, but greens are beginning to take their place. Teals and turquoise are bolder choices for the new year.

Make sure to bring luxury into the bathroom. Warm amenities such as heated towel racks, warming drawers, heated floods, heated toilet seats and bathtubs with heated backs are all trending.

FURNITURE CHOICES

As far as furniture in your home goes, curves and Art Deco are in.

"Rounded chairs and sofas lend themselves to more creative furniture arrangements," McCormick said.

Vintage finds, which have been popular during the pandemic, are still very much in style.

"Not only is it a socially conscious 'green' choice, but it's generally well-made, immediately available and often economically priced," she said. "The patina of the wood finishes lend a warmth and coziness that newer pieces may not."

As far as the overall feeling of your home, minimalism is out. Putting your own mark on your home with individualism, personalization and variety are in.

"Matching suites of furniture are passe," McCormick said. "It's time to pull out family heirlooms, unique pieces, collections and art to layer a room that is all yours."

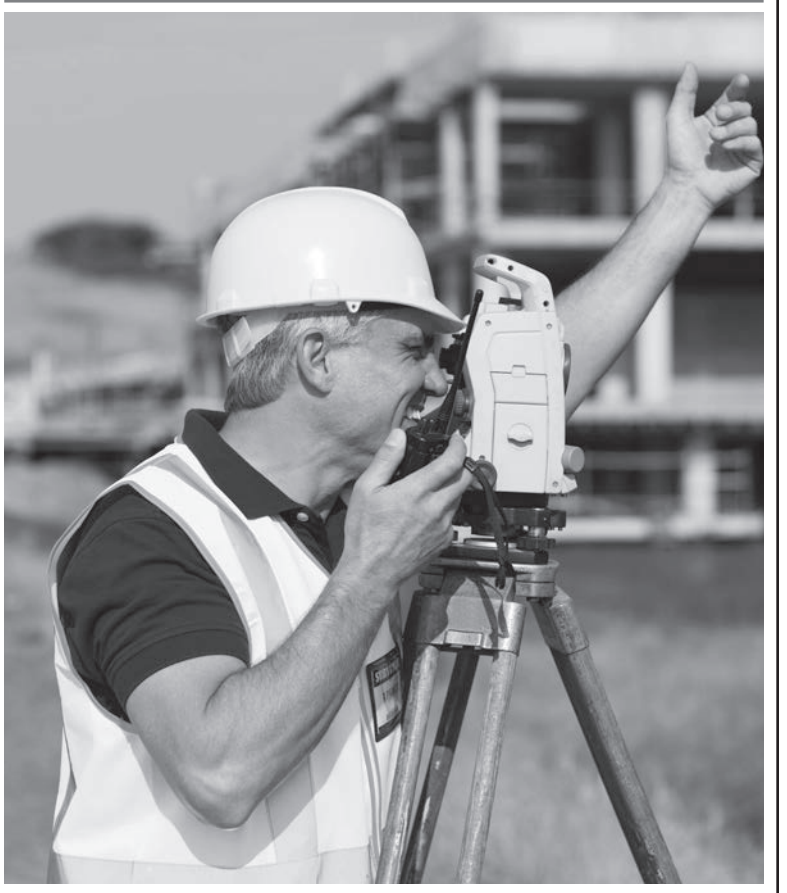
Uniting the vintage furniture with an individual flare brings master craftsmanship into the home with more ornate furniture, rich wood tones and inlays replacing cookie cutter mass market pieces.

"Breakdown furniture made of materials that have plastic elements using petroleum are not sustainable and are made to be disposable in about five years only to pile up in landfills," McCormick said.

Also trending out are blingy interiors and modern farmhouse, paving the way for more subtle expressions of luxury and natural materials.

As you look at your home and ask yourself, what will the new year bring? Consider breaking from the mold and making your home yours. Put your stamp on it and have fun with color, textures and furniture.

ASK ANGI



Do I need to survey my land?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ASK ANGI

Ask most people where their property begins and ends, and they can give you a specific answer. The road to the west, the alley in the back, the front sidewalk, and the fence between their house and the neighbor's place. It couldn't be simpler, right?

And yet, many homeowners don't really know the exact amount of land they own or where it begins and ends. And not knowing the precise dimensions of your most valuable asset can lead to various problems, ranging from "hilarious misunderstanding" to "complete disaster during home selling."

Homeowners often rely on anecdotal evidence, such as their real estate agent, or the visual markers that border a property (streets, fences) to delineate their property. But even geographic information system information or Google Earth aren't reliable indicators. Indeed, some of what you think is part of your front lawn might be owned by the state or city, depending on how far the legal right of way extends from the street.

The most obvious value of property lines is knowing how far you can and should place improvements along your yard. A 6-foot variance in your borders makes a big difference when putting up a fence.

Sometimes, a homeowners association will require that specific improvements be made to the property line.

The only reliable way to pinpoint your exact property lines is a professional surveyor, who surveys your property according to the exact dimensions recorded by the city or county office responsible for tracking property lines.

How to hire a surveyor

Licensing requirements vary by state. However, all states have a surveyor's licensing board. The profession requires a deep knowledge of law and systems, extensive education and professional experience under a licensed surveyor before granting a license.

The profession also requires a bit of diplomacy—surveyors are sometimes called upon to explain their findings to angry landowners who discover they own much less than they thought or that their expensive landscaping extends several feet into someone else's yard.

A survey costs about $525, but if you've never had one done, it could prove vital. You should always hire a surveyor when buying a new home. And if you're undertaking landscaping or fence construction, it buys valuable peace of mind to know your boundaries.

Property lines vital to insurance and responsibility

Property lines get even more complicated when you consider elements that start on one property but impact another. Trees make up the majority of these problems. If your oak's limbs extend over your neighbor's yard, whose problem is it when the leaves fall? Or worse still, if a broken limb causes damage to a neighbor's yard?

This is another case where your jurisdiction matters, so make sure you and your insurance company understand the specifics.

In the end, mutual respect for each other makes the most valuable difference. Consider your neighbors when making improvements near your property edge, regardless

Life & Style

Collection of rare centuries-old jewelry returns to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A spectacular collection of centuries-old Cambodian jewelry has been returned to the Southeast Asian country, the latest treasures to be retrieved from the estate of well-known antiquities collector and dealer Douglas Latchford, who was accused of buying and selling looted artifacts.

Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts announced Monday that 77 pieces of Cambodian jewelry from the Latchford family collection arrived back in their homeland on Friday. It said the collection included items "such as gold and other precious metal pieces from the Pre-Angkorian and Angkorian period including crowns, necklaces, bracelets, belts, earrings and amulets." Angkor in the 9th to the 15th centuries was a powerful kingdom in the area of present-day Cambodia, and tourists can see its legacy at the famous Angkor Wat temple complex in the country's northwest.

AP

This photo released by the Union Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC), shows jewelry on display at a room of Latchford family in London on Feb. 14, 2023.

The ministry said the handover of the items involved Hun Many, a lawmaker who is the youngest son of Prime Minister Hun Sen; Cambodia's ambassador to Britain; representatives of Britain's Foreign Office; the Art & Antiques Unit of London's Metropolitan Police; and the Arts Council England.

The return of the items followed a September 2020 agreement with Latchford's family under which all Cambodian artifacts in their possession would be returned to Cambodia. Other stone and bronze artifacts were returned in September 2021.

Latchford, known as both an expert and a dealer in Cambodian and Indian antiquities, died in August 2020 at age 88 in Bangkok, Thailand, where he lived for decades.

In November 2018, U.S federal prosecutors indicted him on charges of wire fraud conspiracy and other crimes related to alleged trafficking in stolen and looted Cambodian antiquities. It accused him of creating "false provenances"—documents about how and where the items were obtained—and "falsified invoices and shipping documents" to conceal their origins. Experts believe many or most of the items he handled were looted from Cambodia during periods of war and instability, including in the 1970s when the country was under the brutal rule of the communist Khmer Rouge.

Latchford in earlier interviews denied any involvement in smuggling or other wrongdoing. He died before he could be extradited to the United States to face charges, so the indictment against him was eventually dismissed.

After his death, at least 30 sandstone and bronze sculptures and artifacts were sent back to Cambodia from the U.S. by their owners either voluntarily or after court action. They included items held by the Denver Art Museum in Colorado.

The statement from Cambodia's Culture Ministry quoted its minister, Dr. Phoeurng Sackona, as saying that "the repatriation of these national treasures opens a new era of understanding and scholarship about the Angkorian empire and its significance to the world."

She encouraged "private individuals, museums as well as other institutions around the world that are in possession of Cambodian artifacts to cooperate with the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts or through Cambodian embassies to return Cambodian cultural heritage objects."

"We consider such returns as a noble act, which not only demonstrates important contributions to a nation's culture, but also contributes to the reconciliation and healing of Cambodians who went through decades of civil war and suffered tremendously from the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge genocide," it quoted her as saying.

Ant-Man opens big at box office with $104M for 'Quantumania'

NEW YORK (AP)—Phase five of the Marvel Cinematic Universe may have gotten off to a rocky start, but Ant-Man is bigger than ever at the box office.

"Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" opened with $104 million in domestic ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday, easily surpassing the box-office debuts of the previous two Ant-Man films. The Walt Disney Co.'s "Quantumania" added another $121.3 million overseas to give the pint-sized hero a $225 million global launch.

It's easily the largest opening of the year so far. And "Quantumania" did so despite an atypically poor reception for the 31st MCU film. "Quantumania," starring Paul Rudd as Ant-Man, Evangeline Lilly as the Wasp and Jonathan Majors as Kang the Conqueror, sits at 48% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, making it the only MCU film to rank as rotten beside "Eternals" (47%).

Audiences also weren't thrilled with "Quantumania," giving it a "B" CinemaScore. "Eternals" is the only other MCU film to receive a CinemaScore that low.

Those scores will pose the biggest concern for Marvel as it continues to unroll phase five of the MCU, following mixed reviews for the post-"Avengers: Endgame" phase four of the comic-book franchise. Up next is "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" in May.

But good reviews or not, theaters hope "Quantumania"—the first blockbuster of the year—is a sign of things to come. After the turmoil of the past three years, there are some 30 more wide releases planned for 2023.

"It will feel almost in the coming weeks like a pre-pandemic moviegoing environment in terms of the marketplace," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. "That's very good news coming off a very tumultuous past two, three years. This is the start of a big many months for this industry. We've sort of been in the waiting room with holdovers like 'Avatar' and others."

The first "Ant-Man" launched with $57.2 million domestically in 2015, the smallest opening for any movie in the MCU. It ultimately earned $519.3 million worldwide. Its sequel, "Ant-Man and the Wasp," debuted three years later with $75.8 million and went to collect $622.7 million globally.

Wife not sure where to turn when snooping bares stunner

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for six years, married for four. We have had a lot of marriage issues during the last few years, sexually and otherwise. I no longer trust him because of something I found out last year.

I have his email information, and I also was able to see the search history from his phone on the computer. I discovered that he watches a lot of porn. I don't think it's a big deal because I know many men and women do. But I saw he was also watching gay porn and searching for pictures of well-endowed guys. Does this mean my husband is gay and likes men?Or does it just mean he likes different sexual things? I'm not sure what to do. I don't know if I should approach the subject with him. I don't want him to know I'm snooping around, so how do I ask him about it without telling him how I know? Or should I just let it go?

KNOWS TOO MUCH IN TEXAS

DEAR KNOWS: Your husband may be bisexual, gay or bi-curious. You wouldn't have checked his phone history if you hadn't felt "something" was wrong. Do not let it go. You will never know the truth unless you ask for it. This does not necessarily have to be a marriage-breaker. However, in case your husband has wandered (off the screen), call your doctor and ask to be tested for STDs.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother puts pictures of me on Facebook, usually old ones, and invariably says, "Look how skinny you were!" I'm 60 now, and I don't look skinny anymore. Her comments bother me greatly. Recently, my daughters-in-law said something to her on Facebook about commenting on my weight and how they don't see me as overweight but as a whole and wonderful person.

Now, my mother is angry. She says HER feelings are hurt because she thought she was "paying me a compliment." I can't make her understand that you just don't make comments on people's weight, especially on social media. It is unkind. How do I get through to her?

WEIGHTY ISSUE

DEAR WEIGHTY ISSUE: If you think trying to reason with someone as insensitive as your mother will work, forget it. You can get through to her by telling her in plain English that her backhanded "compliment" hurt YOU, and you don't want it repeated in public OR in private, and if she does it again, you and your family will block her on social media—if not from your lives. You deserve an apology. You do not owe her one.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 59. He is on long-term disability because he has been suffering from a major depression for more than a year. He has asked me not to tell our acquaintances or my co-workers about his health issues. My question is, how should I respond when people ask me what my husband does? I don't like to say he's retired because that is not the case.

QUESTIONED IN QUEBEC, CANADA

DEAR QUESTIONED: If you are asked, tell the questioners that your husband is SEMI-retired. It's the truth, and no one knows how long it will be until he is again fully employed.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

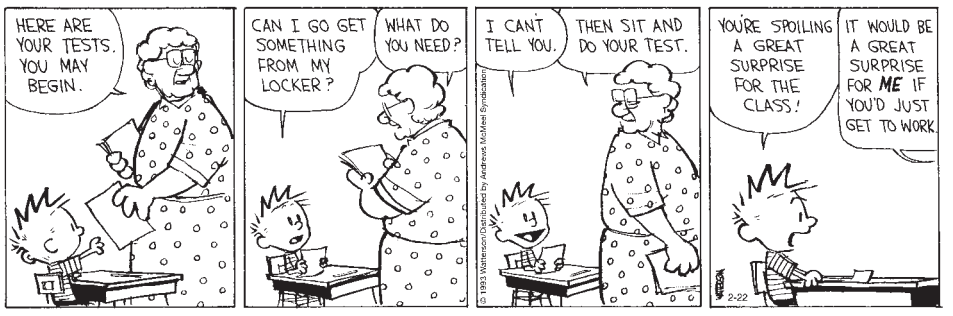
DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE ARE YOUR TESTS. YOU MAY BEGIN.
CAN I GO GET SOMETHING FROM MY LOCKER?
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
I CAN'T TELL YOU.
THEN SIT AND DO YOUR TEST.
YOU'RE SPOILING A GREAT SURPRISE FOR THE CLASS!
IT WOULD BE A GREAT SURPRISE FOR ME IF YOU'D JUST GET TO WORK.
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2-22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ODIE, YOU LACK AMBITION AND DRIVE
YUP...
YOU'RE MY KIND OF GUY!
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JIM DAVIS 2-22

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Beep Beep Beep Beep
ADAM! THAT'S THE GARBAGE TRUCK!
WHAT?? BUT I SET AN ALARM!
GO! GO! MAYBE YOU CAN STILL CATCH THEM!
GAH! LAST NIGHT ME IS SO DUMB!
HURRY! WE CAN BERATE YOU LATER!
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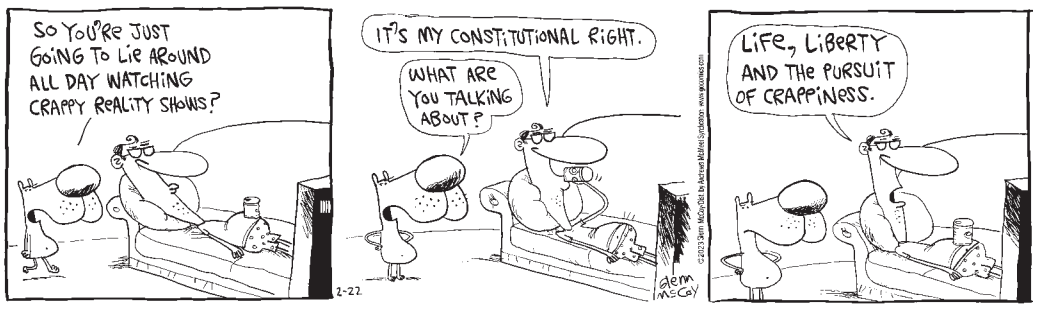
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LIE AROUND ALL DAY WATCHING CRAPPY REALITY SHOWS?
IT'S MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF CRAPPINESS.
2-22
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Billboards
4 Navy address
7 Field yield
8 Big rigs
10 Ski lodge quaff
11 Deleted
13 Trucks with buckets
16 Turf
17 April forecasts
18 Joke
19 "Arrivederci —"
20 Faxed
21 Makes coffee
23 Elroy's dog
25 Complaint
26 Asset
27 Apr. addressee
28 "Narnia" lion
30 Unpaid TV ad
33 Bushy-tailed nut eaters
36 Central courtyard
37 Ancient Greek region
38 — Hawkins Day
39 Did the crawl
40 Danson of "The Good Place"
41 Snaky fish

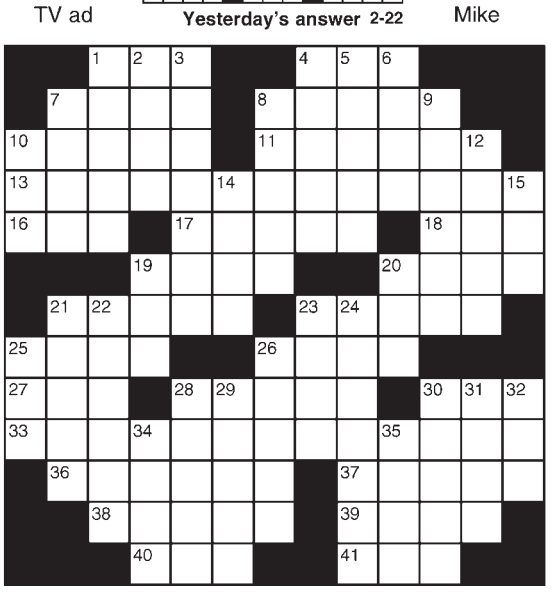
DOWN

1 Rainbow-shaped
2 Entryway
3 Small songbird
4 Canary's kin
5 Apple products
6 Jeopardize
7 Silver salmon
8 Old photo tint
9 Folk singer Pete
10 IV measures
12 Clog-cleaning brand
14 Orange veggies
15 Boot camp VIP
19 Game official
20 Map lines (Abbr.)
21 Quotable Yogi
22 Puts back to zero
23 Jai —
24 Dawn follower
25 Iota
26 Feather in one's cap
28 Comment to the audience
29 Ink squirter
30 Jail-related
31 Slender
32 Botanist Gray
34 Part of Q.E.D.
35 TV host and narrator Mike

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	H	A	D		C	A	B		S	O	B	A
C	A	R	E		O	S	U		O	P	E	D
A	R	I	A		M	I	D	F	I	E	L	D
M	I	D	R	I	F	F		O	R	C	A	S
			I	C	Y		P	R	E			
S	H	R	E	K		M	I	D	E	A	S	T
A	A	A			N	A	G			B	A	D
M	I	D	Y	E	A	R		S	P	U	D	S
			E	L	M		S	O	Y			
S	P	I	L	L		M	I	D	T	E	R	M
M	I	D	L	A	N	D	S		H	I	V	E
E	L	L	E		D	I	A		O	R	E	L
W	E	E	D		A	I	L		N	E	R	D

Yesterday's answer 2-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, 48; Thomas Jane, 54; Jeri Ryan, 55; Kyle MacLachlan, 64.

Happy Birthday: Be discreet, secretive and change only what's necessary. Consider how to make your life less stressful. Concentrate on physical adjustments that add convenience to your everyday routine. Create opportunities instead of waiting for someone to step in and tell you what to do next. By taking control, you will eliminate opposition and reach your goal without interference. A trendy new look will boost your confidence. Your numbers are 3, 16, 24, 29, 35, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a break and rethink your strategy before you make a mistake. A proposal will mislead you; ask questions. Be specific about your responsibilities and what others expect of you. Staying active will help you avoid making impulsive moves. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Mix business with pleasure to get along better with your colleagues. Don't let the changes you encounter discourage you from following your heart. Compensate for anything that disrupts your day or plans, and keep moving forward. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get involved in something you believe in or feel you can contribute to and make a difference. First, however, eliminate dealing with anyone trying to take advantage of you. Handle business, get things done on time and avoid controversy. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Sign up for a class, event or activity that will allow you to use your imagination. A discussion with someone who shares your concerns will lead to a change that will make a difference at work or in your circle of friends. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be receptive. What you learn will give you hope and revive your interest and ability to fight for what you want. Take the steps required to turn what you know and do well into a lucrative outlet. Self-improvement and relationship opportunities are apparent. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your eye on the market and invest wisely. Discuss your plans with an expert. An offer will pique your interest, but until you get all the facts and figures, you should keep your money in the bank and observe. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand up and be counted. Speak freely, follow through and be willing to do the work yourself. Run the show instead of sitting in the audience. Show your worth, and set guidelines for those who show interest in your plans. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* The response you receive from sharing your intentions will give you a push to make your next move. A partnership looks exciting but is unlikely to pan out if you refrain from delegating who's responsible for what before you begin. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* What you contribute will make a difference at home. Get everyone you care about involved, and a closer bond will develop that encourages you to make positive lifestyle changes moving forward. Follow through with your plans; success will unfold. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotional situations will confuse you. Keep your thoughts to yourself until you gather the facts and fully understand the implications involved should you address issues prematurely. Bide your time, and you'll discover what you want and how to proceed. An offer looks promising. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Lean on the experience you have to speed up the process of getting what you want. Don't wait for someone to come along and do things for you. Believe in yourself and make things happen. A brilliant idea will lead to a cash infusion. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Hiding out at home will give you time to rearrange rooms to suit your needs. Don't feel you have to conform to standard procedures when your ideas and plans are innovative and can help you reach your destination. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have speed, agility and technique. You are versatile and persistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

								1
		8			4			9
	5		3	7		2	6	
		4		1				6
	3				9		1	2
		2		8		7	9	
3					7	6	5	
			8					7
4	8				1		2	3

Difficulty: ★★★ 2-22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	3	1	9	2	5	4	7
7	1	4	5	8	6	3	9	2
2	9	5	7	4	3	8	1	6
8	6	2	9	1	7	4	3	5
1	4	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
5	3	9	4	6	8	2	7	1
3	2	6	8	7	1	9	5	4
4	5	1	3	2	9	7	6	8
9	7	8	6	5	4	1	2	3

Difficulty: ★★ 2-21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ASH WEDNESDAY Solution: 7 letters

S	H	R	O	V	E	T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	R	F
E	O	T	S	E	I	R	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	O
R	A	L	I	F	E	I	T	S	T	S	S	A	M	R
M	E	S	E	B	U	R	N	F	I	N	T	H	I	E
O	C	Y	T	M	A	A	F	C	S	N	E	O	N	H
N	E	P	A	E	N	I	L	G	E	N	S	L	D	E
O	L	U	H	R	R	E	N	M	O	N	A	Y	Ⓔ	A
I	E	E	T	S	P	I	A	I	E	I	S	Ⓟ	R	D
T	B	V	T	S	N	T	T	B	C	R	Ⓞ	E	U	E
A	R	I	O	N	S	C	I	E	S	Ⓗ	C	S	N	V
G	A	G	I	E	E	B	P	I	N	T	T	Y	I	O
I	T	G	T	L	L	S	M	L	A	P	A	G	T	T
L	E	D	F	E	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	I	Y	I
B	L	E	L	O	B	M	Y	S	E	A	S	O	N	O
O	R	E	C	O	N	C	I	L	I	A	T	I	O	N

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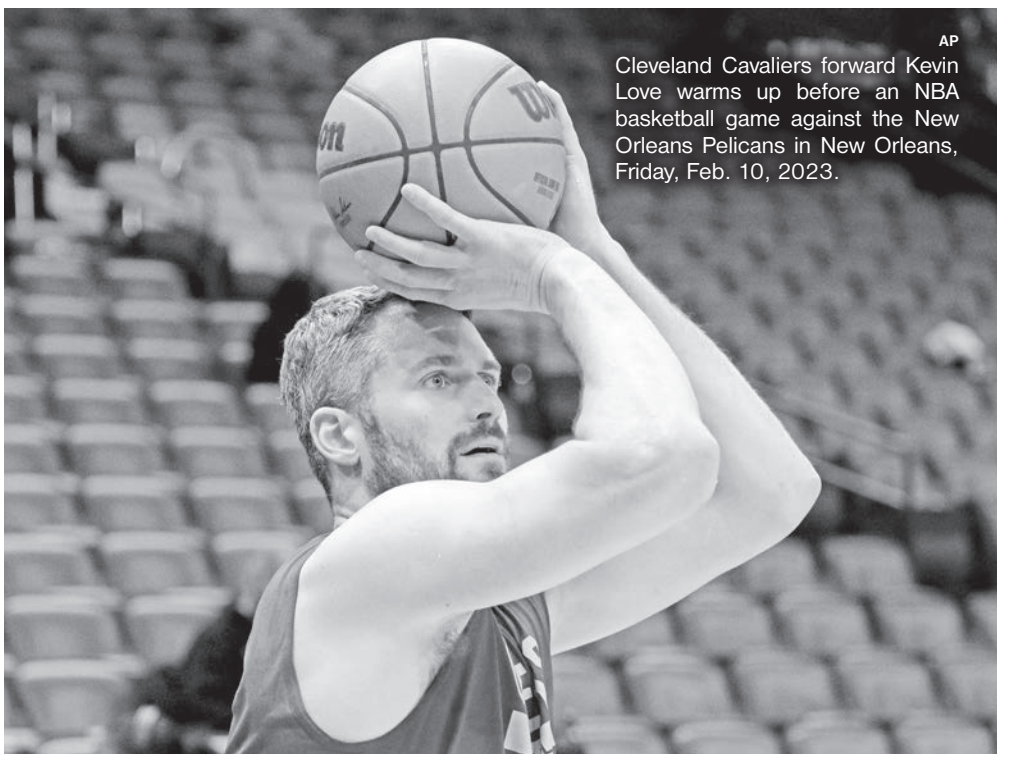
Abstain, Beginning, Believe, Bible, Burn, Celebrate, Devotion, Dust, Easter, First, Forehead, Give Up, Gospel, Heart, Holy, Hope, Incense, Lent, Life, Mass, Mercy, Obligation, Old Testament, Palms, Prayer, Priest, Promise, Reconciliation, Reflection, Reminder, Season, Sermon, Shrove Tuesday, Sins, Solemn, Special, Symbol, Unity

Yesterday's Answer: Liturgy

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Love signs with Miami, moving fast after clearing waivers

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



AP
Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love warms up before an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.

Kevin Love wasted no time. He's officially a member of the Miami Heat.

The five-time All-Star and 15-year NBA veteran cleared waivers on Monday afternoon, then signed a contract to join the Heat for the remainder of the season not long afterward. The now-former Cleveland forward was in Miami for the signing, with plans to start working out at his new team facility right away.

Love's first official practice with Miami is scheduled for Thursday when the team returns from its All-Star break, and he could make his Heat debut as early as Friday at Milwaukee.

Love is an NBA champion, an Olympic champion and a FIBA World Cup champion. He's 42nd on the NBA's 3-pointers made list with 1,536, which ranks 19th among players currently in the league.

Heat center Bam Adebayo —who was hoping Love would come to Miami if the Cavaliers bought him out— said he planned to call coach Erik Spoelstra on Monday to start a conversation about how he and Love might be able to play alongside one another.

"Spo's smart. He'll figure it out, how we're going to handle things," Adebayo told The Associated Press. "It's exciting. We've got fresh legs on the team. We've got a guy like Kevin Love, who has been through those wars, came back from 3-1 (with Cleveland against Golden State in the 2016 NBA Finals). You've got a battle-tested guy like that who has won. It's big for us."

Over parts of 15 NBA seasons with Cleveland and Minnesota, Love has averaged 17.2 points and 10.5 rebounds. He averaged career lows of 8.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 20 minutes per game in 41 games, almost all as a reserve, this season for Cleveland and didn't play in the team's final 12 games before the All-Star break.

That's what led to the buyout talks, and ultimately, Love coming to the Heat.

When he thinks about what adding Love means to the Heat, Adebayo draws parallels between him and two other players—current Heat forward Udonis Haslem when it comes to leadership, and former Heat center Meyers Leonard when it comes to things like an ability to space the floor, talk on defense and bring help defending the rim.

"He's smart, he stretches the floor, and you can learn from guy like that, having a guy like that in your corner," Adebayo said. "Him and UD, two different walks of life, but now they're kind of going down the same road. Having guys like that, it'll help me tremendously. He's an all-around great person."

Miami signed another big man on Monday—free agent center Cody Zeller. He has averaged 8.5 points and 6.0 rebounds in 494 games with Charlotte and Portland.

The 6-foot-11 center was the fourth pick in the 2013 draft.

"He's really underrated as a team player," Adebayo said. "He's underrated for what he does. I know what he'll bring to our team will make us more successful."

The Heat will come out of the All-Star break seventh in the Eastern Conference at 32-27, five games back of Cleveland for the No. 4 spot. The top four teams in each conference will have home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs, and the top six in each conference will avoid the play-in tournament to determine the seventh and eighth seeds.

NBA on All-Star break, but no easy answers to rest problem

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Golden State coach Steve Kerr wants a shorter NBA season. Milwaukee All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo does not. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver isn't sure what the right answer is.

Such is the conundrum with the NBA's ongoing battle with load management—often the fancy way of saying resting—and finding ways to optimize player health, performance and availability. While there is a consensus that the league has problems, there is no consensus on how to solve those problems.

Over the last week, The Associated Press asked a cross section of 48 players, coaches, owners and executives if the NBA should abandon its 82-game, 170-day blueprint of a regular season for something with either fewer games or more days in the season to allow for more rest.

The results were as muddled as the issue itself: 40% said they would simply go along with whatever the league decides is best, 35% said they don't want the current format changed, and the remaining 25% wants changes.

How fans will be affected is one concern. Money is another.

"I think if you want to get the best player availability, shortening the season may be in the best interest of everybody involved," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "But that's also a lot of money being lost—TV games, money. Let's not forget: This is a business."

With the All-Star Weekend in the books and regular-season play resuming Thursday, there are still 19 players with a chance to play in 82 games this season. There were only five who did it last season, 11 who played every game in a 72-game 2020-21 season and 14 who played all possible games in the COVID-19-interrupted 2019-20 season.

It used to not be so uncommon for players to play every game, or at least almost every game. A decade ago, in 2012-23, there were 28 players making 82 appearances. A decade before that, it was 46. John Stockton played in 82 games 16 times for Utah and missed 22 games in 19 seasons; A.C. Green played 82 games 14 times in his career. Among players currently active, nobody has logged more than five 82-game seasons.

Antetokounmpo doesn't want change: "I think 82 games is perfect," he said.

Minnesota guard Anthony Edwards said seeing players sometimes take a game to rest is the thing he dislikes most about the league. His rationale: Somebody might have bought a ticket to just that one game, and feelings can be hurt if the player they want to see most takes the night off.

"Just play, man. If you're 80%, you've got to play," said Edwards, 21, a first-time All-Star. "I don't like all the sitting, missing games and stuff. These people might have enough money to come to one game. And that might be the game they come to and you're sitting out. I take pride in trying to play every game because I don't know, it might be one fan that has never seen me play, and I'm trying to play."

Kerr is a proponent of a 72-game season, and has said so this year after some games where the reigning champion Warriors have given their stars —the Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green types —a night off because the team feels it was in the best interest of their health.

He also knows a 72-game season would come with a price. Literally, a big price. Shaving 12% of games from the schedule would, in theory, shave 12% of revenue opportunities. And while it's not likely owners would embrace making less money, players probably wouldn't go for that, either.

"I feel terrible for fans who buy tickets who are expecting to see someone play and they don't get to see that person play," Kerr said. "It's a brutal part of the business. That's why I'm going to continue to advocate for 72-game seasons. And I know that means less revenue, but at some point, I think there just needs to be an awareness from everybody involved."

At least one other coach is listening to Kerr, loud and clear.

"I do think in an ideal world that the season would be shorter," Milwaukee's Mike Budenholzer said. "We would space the games out, give the players more recovery time, hopefully more health. And I think one of the big points of emphasis is for the fans, more player availability. But it's a complicated equation."

One potential tweak that some prefer is the idea of not squeezing 82 games into 170 days, which basically means a game every other day. Building even another week into the schedule could allow for more multiday breaks.

The NFL and NHL have bye weeks. Minnesota coach Chris Finch wonders if the NBA should do the same.

"I think what we need to do as a league is remove all the obstacles for guys not playing," Finch said. "Back-to-backs seem to be a big one. They've done a really good job over the last years of trying to limit back-to-backs, make them more intelligent if you will. It doesn't seem to me that we're that far off of being able to eliminate them altogether, whether that's fewer games or, heck, the season's so long right now anyway, what's another week or two?"

The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association are currently in talks on a new collective bargaining agreement, with both sides hopeful that it'll get done by next month —which hardly guarantees anything, but it's a reason for optimism.

There is a strong chance that an in-season tournament, something Silver has wanted for years, could be part of the NBA calendar as early as next season. But there is no talk of that changing the format for the season; teams have been told that, if the tournament is added, they'll get an 80-game schedule this summer with two more games—those matchups based on how they fare in the opening portion of the tournament—to be added later.

"I think part of the realization these days in playing in this league is that this is a year-round pursuit now," Silver said. "I think part of injury avoidance means how players are treating their bodies year-round, how teams are interacting with players year-round, and using the best data to conclude what will allow players to stay healthy and on the floor as long as possible.

"We think we can do a better job," he added, "but we don't have a specific solution yet."

Source: Bucks give Meyers Leonard chance to resume career

MIAMI (AP)—Meyers Leonard is getting another chance at the NBA, nearly two years after he used an anti-Semitic slur while playing a video game that was being livestreamed.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations said Leonard and the Milwaukee Bucks have agreed on a 10-day contract, opening the door for the 7-foot center to play in an NBA game for the first time since January 2021. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

ESPN first reported the agreement between Leonard and the Bucks.

Leonard's career was jeopardized and his reputation was seriously damaged on March 8, 2021 when it was discovered that he used a slur while playing an online game as others watched on a livestream. The Heat told him to stay away from the team indefinitely, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver fined him $50,000 and Miami eventually traded him to Oklahoma City.

Leonard said then that he knew he'd used a bad term, but was unaware of the term's meaning. In an apology, he said "my ignorance about its history and how offensive it is to the Jewish community is absolutely not an excuse and I was just wrong." He immediately began scheduling meetings with Holocaust survivors, rabbis in South Florida and other community leaders.

That was the start of him spending much of the last two years trying to atone for what he did—almost all of it quietly, in a deliberate effort to quash any notion his work was simply done to get positive media coverage. He has spoken and worked with several Jewish groups on various things, put on a number of basketball camps for Jewish children and apologized countless times for what he said and his ignorance about what the term meant.

Leonard was not going to play in the remainder of that 2020-21 season after suffering a shoulder injury in January of 2021, two months before the incident. He has since dealt with ankle and other issues, but has been working toward an NBA return for months.

For the Bucks, the move carries almost no risk. They'll get 10 days to see if Leonard —who was with Miami for its run to the 2020 NBA Finals in the restart bubble at Walt Disney World—can help with their playoff push.

Rahm holds on to win at Riviera and returns to No. 1 in world

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Jon Rahm is playing at such a high level he felt he didn't need the Official World Golf Ranking to tell him he was the No. 1 player in golf.

Rahm earned another trophy Sunday in the Genesis Invitational, his fifth in his last nine tournaments worldwide, and this was a big one. He won on a course like Riviera, at a tournament hosted by Tiger Woods and after a tense battle with Max Homa that required Rahm's best golf.

And now he's officially No. 1.

"I don't need a ranking to validate anything," Rahm said. "Having the best season of my life, and hopefully, I can keep it going."

In a back-and-forth final round — Rahm went from a three-shot lead to a one-shot deficit at one point — the Spaniard pulled away with a pivotal recovery for par, a 45-foot birdie putt and an 8-iron to 2 feet on the par-3 16th.

That carried him to a 2-under 69 and a two-shot victory over Homa (68), with Patrick Cantlay (67) another shot behind.

"I wanted to push him. He is a spectacular golfer," said Homa, who got choked up twice speaking to the media because of how much his hometown event means to him. "I've known him since college and he's been like this since then — No. 1 amateur in the world, No. 1 player in the world, all the accolades.

"I wanted to make him beat me and I think I did that."

AP

Jon Rahm, left, holds the winner's trophy next to Tiger Woods after winning the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

Woods could claim a small consolation. He finished a 72-hole event for the first time since the Masters last April, though he was quick to joke, "Unfortunately, my streak continues." He now has played 12 times as a pro at Riviera without winning.

Under the circumstances, this wasn't a bad week.

Woods played only three times last year because of a fused back and battered legs from surgeries (left) and a car crash (right). This was a rare appearance, and Woods doesn't know if he'll play again before the Masters.

He still had the largest gallery to the end, thousands of fans packed on the hill over the 18th green to watch him close out with a par in that familiar red shirt under a black vest.

And then the spectators turned their attention to a terrific duel between Rahm and Homa that wasn't really decided until Homa tried to chip in for birdie on the 18th and fell to his knees when the ball banged off the pin.

Rahm has not finished out of the top 10 in his last 10 tournaments. It was his third win in five starts on the PGA Tour this year, and he already has earned more than $9 million the last two months.

This wasn't as easy as it looked at the end, when all he had to do was tap in for par and scoop up his two young sons.

"That was a tough week and a tough Sunday," Rahm said.

Homa, who won at Riviera two years ago, began the final round three shots back. He quickly closed to within one shot, only for the Spaniard to come within inches of holing out from the fairway at No. 8 for a tap-in birdie, while Homa made bogey from behind the green to slip three shot behind again.

And then it changed quickly.

After Homa birdied the ninth from 15 feet, he drove to the far edge of the 10th green and got down in two for a birdie. Rahm went well left. His pitch was short and rolled down the back of the green, behind a bunker. He pitched onto — and then over — the green into another bunker, and he had to make a 6-footer for bogey.

Two holes later, Homa took the lead for the first time when Rahm three-putted for bogey, only for Homa to give it back with a bogey from a bad tee shot.

"If you tell me on the ninth tee after that tee shot that I was going to be one back on 13 tee, I wouldn't believe you because I was feeling that good," Rahm said. "But it's golf and this golf course — especially this golf course — can get you."

He steadied himself with a 6-iron for a dirt lie left of the 13th fairway that set up a long two-putt par, and then the par 3s won it for him.

Rahm holed a 45-footer on the 14th, and then hit 8-iron — "Probably the best swing of the week," he said — over the bunker to tap-in range for birdie on the 16th.

He finished at 17-under 267 and earned $3.6 million from the $20 million purse, the second straight elevated event on the PGA Tour. Rahm now has won just over $9.4 million in the last two months on the PGA Tour.

Golf now has had three players at No. 1 in the last three weeks — Scottie Scheffler won in Phoenix last week to replace Rory McIlroy, and now Rahm is back on top.

"It's the beauty of the year that we're living right now," Rahm said. "It's exciting for us to play and exciting for the golf fans because things like this can happen."

For the last six months, dating to that 62 in the final round at Wentworth, they seem to be happening mostly to him.

Major league teams searching for advantages with new rules

PHOENIX (AP)—It's a brand new day in the major leagues—potentially an even brighter one for base-stealers like Trea Turner and Ronald Acuña Jr., and most definitely a change of pace for veteran aces like Gerrit Cole or Yu Darvish.

The bases are bigger, and the pickoff rules are different. The pitch clock has arrived, and infield shifts are gone.

Sorry, Shohei Ohtani, you took too long to throw that pitch. Bryce Harper, get back in the batter's box. Xander Bogaerts, can't stand there when Mookie Betts is hitting.

Only one thing is certain to stay the same: Everyone will try to find an edge, aiming to take advantage of baseball's dramatic alterations.

"I think the one thing we know about our industry is to the extent there's an advantage to be gained, every team is going to be doing everything possible to try to exploit that advantage to the best of its ability," said Chris Antonetti, president of baseball operations for the Cleveland Guardians.

Those are the conversations that are dominating spring training this year after Major League Baseball approved a series of changes in September in an effort to make the sport more appealing to a younger generation turned off by its lack of action and leisurely tempo.

As players reported to camps in Florida and Arizona to ramp up their preparation for the season, Commissioner Rob Manfred expressed confidence that the changes would work—after what could be an occasionally bumpy transition period.

"I think you're going to see a game that moves along with more pace," Manfred said. "I think you're going to see more balls in play. I think that you're going to look at the field and see players positioned the way that most of us grew up seeing them positioned. And I really think that (you're) going to see a movement toward the very best form of our game."

The size of the bases has been increased to 18-inch squares from 15. The new pitch clock is 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners. The increasingly frequent infield shift has been eliminated, and there is a limit of two of what MLB calls disengagements—pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber—per plate appearance.

"I think the pitch clock will be the most impactful for sure," Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I mean I'm hoping that's the one that's most impactful. I hope fans notice a real improvement in the pace of the game."

The pitch clock helped reduce the average time of a nine-inning game in the minor leagues from 3 hours, 4 minutes in 2021 to 2:38 last season. A catcher is required to be in the catcher's box with nine seconds left on the clock and a hitter in the batter's box and focused on the pitcher with eight seconds remaining.

Penalties for violations will be a ball called against a pitcher and a strike called against a batter. And there almost assuredly will be some violations through the start of the season as players get used to the clock.

"I'm not worried about it," Chicago White Sox pitcher Lance Lynn said. "The hitters are going to hate it."

Under the new rules on defensive positioning, two infielders will be required to be on either side of second and all infielders to be within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher is on the rubber. Infielders may not switch sides unless there is a substitution, but five-man infields will still be allowed.

With the elimination of the shift, major league teams could get more creative with their outfielders. It's not hard to imagine a late-game scenario where a corner outfielder could move into a spot that a shifted infielder used to fill.

"At least for my lifetime, when a ball's hit in a certain spot, you feel like, at least when you're watching on TV, you feel like it's a hit and you look up and somebody's standing there," San Diego Padres general manager A.J. Preller said.

"So I think that'll probably take some getting used to, kind of seeing that shift back, and from a strategy standpoint, how that plays out."

The bigger bases are intended to help reduce injuries and increase stolen bases— due to their size, the bases are closer together by a few inches. There were 3,297 steal attempts in the majors last year, according to Sportradar, up from 2,926 in 2021 but a marked decrease compared with 4,365 attempts a decade ago in 2012.

All those bang-bang plays on the bases just got a little more interesting.

But the most intriguing change just might be the limit on disengagements. A balk is called for a third step off or pickoff unless there is an out, and the limit is reset if a runner advances.

What pitchers do with their disengagements—which ones keep one in their back pocket, which ones use all of them and which ones are willing to risk a balk with a throw over—will be closely scouted at the start of the season as teams look for a baserunning edge.

"There's a lot of gamesmanship here," Chicago Cubs general manager Carter Hawkins said. "So try to figure out how to best play it. I'm sure there'll be some cat-and-mouse games going on, and different pitchers will come up with different plans that we'll have to adjust to, and baserunners as well.

"I think that's exciting to be able to watch and some chances for some competitive advantages."

KobES 1, WSR 1 bested foes in ES co-ed v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
A William S. Reyes Elementary School student serves the ball last Feb. 10 during their game in the Public School System Co-ed Elementary School Volleyball Tournament at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Koblerville Elementary School 1 and William S. Reyes 1 bested their foes in the last round-robin game day of the the Public School System Co-ed Elementary School Volleyball Tournament at the Oleai Sports Complex last Friday.

The Umangs ended the regular season with a perfect 5-0 record, while the Kingfishers finished with a 4-1 win-loss card.

In last Friday's games, the Umangs first faced off with Grace Christian Academy and won, 21-8; next up was Brilliant Star School which they defeated 21-5; they then beat Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School 2, 21-13.

The Kingfishers 1 also went 3-for-3 after they first defeated Garapan Elementary School 2, 21-18; they then faced off with GCA 1 and won, 21-2; and capped it off with a win against BSS, 21-4.

In other results that night, Oleai Elementary School 2 won against WSR 2, 21-16; GTC 1 defeated Saipan International School 2, 21-4; Kagman Elementary School bested GTC 1, 11-21; GTC 2 defeated BSS, 21-5; SIS 2 slipped past OES 2, 21-18; GES 1 beat SIS 2, 21-12; and GTC 2 beat GES 2, 21-11.

With that, advancing to the double-elimination championship tournament are KES, GES 1, WSR 2, and GTC 1.

In Pool B, KobES 1, WSR 1, GTC 2, and GES 2 are advancing.

Last Feb. 10, Pool C completed their round-robin pool play, with OES 1, TES, KobES 2, and GCA 2 advancing to the double-elimination championship tournament scheduled for Feb. 24 and 25.

HD

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ien are also weightlifters, her goal is to break her personal bests in the competition. Her PB for snatch is 68kg, while her clean & jerk is 81kg.

She said that as of right now, heading into her first competition off-island, "it hasn't really hit me yet. I guess it will hit when I'm there. But as of right now, I'm just trying to get into the mental state of 'hey, you have to compete, you got to make your weight, and you have to place'. I hope to place but I really don't know who my competition is and I guess that's a good thing—but I'm just excited."

When asked if she's ready for the Micronesian Games in June and the Pacific Games in November, she said she's not lifting the weight that she wants yet, but that she's getting there.

The Army reservist topped the women's 64-kg weight class in the first qualifier event held last month by the CNMI Weightlifting Federation. She had two lifts of 55kg and 64kg in the snatch portion, and 75kg and 80kg in the clean & jerk for a total weight of 141kg.

For Andrew, a middle school student at Dandan Middle School, he said that he is also excited for the chance to compete in Guam. Right now, his PBs for the snatch is 63kg, while the clean & jerk is 80kg.

As to how he balances school and training, he said he does his homework first and then trains. He added that he likes the sport because he gets to push himself and instead of just staying at home not doing anything.

He thanked his coach "for coaching everyday and for Get Fit CNMI for letting us use their facility to train."

In the first weightlifting qualifier last month, Andrew topped the 61-kg weight class after missing only one lift in his last attempt at the clean & jerk of 80kg. His successful lifts in the snatch and clean & jerk were 55kg, 60kg, 63kg, 65kg, and 70kg.

For Gimed, he said that he is excited to compete and that he is looking forward to traveling which is a big plus as well. "It will be a good experience for me. I really like the sport and I do like traveling," said Gimed.

Gimed has been training for almost a year and said that he immediately liked the sport when he tried it out. His auntie in Palau was also an Olympic weightlifter, while his mom does crossfit.

He then thanked his coach "for bringing me into the sport and my mom for pushing me to this."

In the first weightlifting qualifier, Gimed placed fourth in the 89-kg division after lifting a total of 120kg. He missed only one attempt and successfully lifted 45kg, 53kg, and 60kg in the snatch, and lifted 55kg and 60kg in the clean & jerk.

San Nicolas was asked how the team will do and he said "they are ready now. Right now, they're in shape. They will do great. I expect a podium finish for them. But you know, before the platform in the warm up area, I'll be with them. But once they're on the platform, nobody else can lift the weights for them but themselves. So it's really them against themselves."

In Guam's competition, competitors from Guam, Palau, and the CNMI will vie for podium finishes.

Next month, the CNMI Weightlifting Federation will host its last weightlifting qualifier, the Marianas Cup 2023 on March 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BLUE

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Esdrelon and carried the team to the finish line.

Guiab would fire 10 of his total 19 points in the last 10 minutes of the contest, while Esdrelon still led the multi-titled team in the boxscore with 23 points. Joel Elchico was the only other double-figure performer for Blue Haus with 12.

The rest of the Blue Haus team is made up of Jeff Garcia, Bruce Berline, Edwin Santos, Matt Buenabajo, Rey Culala, Richard Peredo, Tito Alano, Nelson Samson, Ed Diaz, Jun Estolas, John Santos, and Martin Moreno.

Tabora paced JSM Construction in the finals with 19 markers, while Abuy and Melvin Villarin pumped in 12 points apiece in support.

Guiab said what made this championship even sweeter was they beat the same team that gave them their first loss in years. JSN Construction defeated them in the first round of the two-round elimination format.

He also said they won despite not having 6'3" center Berline in the lineup for the winner-take-all finals as the veteran center was off-island.

In the battle for third in the masters, Vizion Insurance beat Legends Elite, 121-83. In the open division, taking second runner-up honors was JTM Saipan after it beat NAPA Auto Parts, 87-69.

Blue Haus 76 – Esdrelon 23, Guiab 19, Elchico 12, Garcia 7, Buenabajo 6, Estolas 4, J. Santos 3, E. Santos 2.

JSN Construction 67 – Tabora 19, Abuy 12, Villarin 12, De Guzman 10, Wesley 8, Montano 6.

Scoring by quarters: 19-10, 41-38, 58-50, 76-67.

SIMON

From Page 20

excited to be a part of the race," said Shindo.

The 10-year-old from Grace Christian Academy said he almost lost steam near the end but persevered.

"I didn't see any fish and turtles. Toward the end was the hardest part, because I was losing stamina, but I knew I needed to keep it up, then I finally won," he added.

Gwen Retardo topped the girls U10 100m winner after clocking in at 1:51.80. Tsunami Saipan actually finished 1-2 in the event as Evan Shin got second in 2:04.59 with SSC's Olivia Walsh third in 2:14.53.

"I felt really happy and proud of myself. The toughest part was getting out of the beach because there were corals and rocks on the sand and my legs were really tired from running because I felt so exhausted," said Retardo.

The 8-year-old student from GCA said she almost felt sad she wasn't able to see any fish during her swim.

Leo Li was the fastest tadpole in the U8 50m event with a time of 56.07. He was followed by fellow Tsunami Saipan members Taewon Park (1:06.79) and Shuro Barman (1:07.41).

Li said he was very happy he won the race and the most challenging part was the turnaround.

The 7-year-old from Garapan Elementary School thanked Tsunami Saipan coach Hiroyuki Kimura for teaching him how to swim competitively.

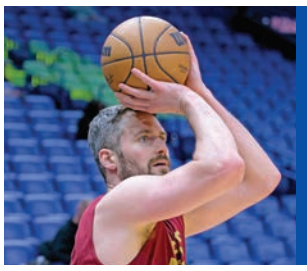
In the girls U8 50m, Tsunami Saipan also had another sweep with Aileen Kim, Yoonmin Cho, and Fiona Yu finishing 1-2-3 in the event.

Kim finished in 55:84, Cho in 1:10.55, and Yu in 1:11.74.

"I felt proud of myself. The toughest part was the waves because they blocked us from going faster," said Kim, an 8-year-old from Saipan International School.

MARK RABAGO
Leo Li, third from right, topped the U8 boys 50m event of last Saturday's Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.

MARK RABAGO
Allen Kim, fourth from right, topped the U8 girls 50m event of last Saturday's Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.



Love signs with Miami, moving fast after clearing waivers

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Sports

KobES 1, WSR 1 bested foes in ES co-ed v-ball

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Blue Haus also champions of masters division

MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus players are all smiles and display their championship trophy after winning the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League 45-and-over division last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus may have its yearslong undefeated streak in the masters division snapped during the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League, but nonetheless still finished the season as champions of the 45-and-over division.

The OG of the greybeards (and hair or thinning hair) literally gave a master class on shooting and defending en route to beating JSN Construction, 76-67, last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Elmer Esdrelon gave Blue Haus a much needed lift in the first 10 minutes of action, as the veteran point guard scored 7 points to give them a 19-10 lead.

JSN Construction fought back in the second behind the outside sniping of James Abuy and they were able to trim Blue Haus' lead to 3 points, 41-38, at halftime.

Esdrelon returned to form at the start of the second half and erupted for another 8 points that allowed Blue Haus to take a 58-50 advantage heading into the fourth and final quarter.

That's when JSN Construction gunner "Smoking" Jun Tabora made things interesting.

Bottled up the first three quarters with multiple Blue Haus defenders draped all over him, the sweet-shooting guard finally went loose in the final canto, exploding for 11 points including two straight triples to keep JSN Construction's fading hopes alive.

But alas, Blue Haus found another savior in playing coach Junar Guiab, as the bull-strong do-it-all forward took the cudgels from a visibly tired

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HD Weightlifting Camp youth to compete in Guam tourney

LEIGH GASES

HD Weightlifting Camp CNMI head coach Angel San Nicolas, left, watches Cheyanne Manuel, right, Aiden Gimed, second right, and Jaden Andrew, second left, during their training session last Friday night at the Get Fit CNMI Gym in Gualo Rai.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Young weightlifters of the HD Weightlifting Camp coached by Angel San Nicolas will compete in their first off-island competition this Saturday, Feb. 25, in Guam's 2023 Youth, Junior, Senior, Olympic Weightlifting Championships.

Twenty-one-year-old Cheyanne Manuel, 13-year-old Jaden Andrew, and 12-year-old Aiden Gimed are amped up and ready for their second weightlifting qualifier for the chance to join the CNMI National Weightlifting Team in the 2023 Micronesian and Pacific Games.

Manuel is competing in the senior 64-kg weight class, Andrew is in the youth 55kg, and Gimed is in the youth 81kg.

According to San Nicolas, who is also competing in Guam in the 102-kg weight class, training hasn't stopped for his team. They train about a couple of hours a day, six out of seven days from Monday to Saturday.

For Manuel, whose younger siblings Anniegail and Ki-

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Simon, Gwen top 100m; Leo, Aileen fastest in 50m

By MARK RABAGO
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The CNMI's youngest swimmers showed off in the 100m and 50m events of the Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.

Simon Shindo was the first out of the water in the boys U10 100m after timing in at 1:42.07. He was followed by fellow Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center member Xingchen Wang and Saipan Swim Club swimmer Gabriel Cariaso with times of 1:47.65 and 1:58.42, respectively.

"I felt really great when I won the race. It has been over two years since I participated in the ocean swim. I was very

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MARK RABAGO

Simon Shindo, fourth from left, topped the U10 boys 100m event of last Saturday's Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.

MARK RABAGO

Gwen Retardo, fifth from left, topped the U10 girls 100m event of last Saturday's Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Swim Meet in the waters off the Civic Center Beach.